

About the WTG

The twenty-three private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 61,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the low-income students who apply for the WTG are turned away every year for lack of funds. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom the WTG has made a significant difference.

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Giving back to the community important to physics major

Skyler Hagen grew up attending small schools all his life. His high school graduating class in Markesan, Wisconsin, was comprised of just 55 students.

So when it came time to look for a college Skyler wanted something small.

“Ripon College is the perfect fit,” says Skyler. “A big factor is that it is close to home and is a small school. I was



Skyler Hagen, of Mareksan, is a volunteer firefighter in Markesan.

used to small class sizes and wanted to go to a college that provided one-to-one contact with professors rather than

just being talked to like at larger college campuses.”

Skyler is a proud recipient of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. As with so many other students in Wisconsin, Skyler's education and outlook on his future are improved because of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. “I appreciate the grant

continued on page 2

Loss leads to a change in plans and change in career

Asya Poglazova had already been in school for four years before she found out about Columbia College of Nursing or even considered it. Being at a public school had just seemed like the right choice when she first started college. “I thought I knew what I wanted to be when I started and I had financially planned for that, but with my father's death in 2009, not only did my goals change, but also my financial status.” Asya went from being a pre-pharmacy major to a nursing major



Asya Poglazova, of Glendale, says the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is helping her achieve her goals.

and after realizing that the public university was not the right choice for her she landed at Columbia College of Nursing.

“After talking with the financial aid advisor I learned I was eligible for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant among other aid from the school. This made the cost of achieving my education seem less burdensome.

Even though my mom could no longer help me with the cost of going to school, she convinced me that this would be the best place for

continued on page 2

Skyler Hagen continued from page 1

greatly, and it has certainly reduced the amount of my tuition I have had to cover out-of-pocket and with loans," he says.

Skyler, a junior physics major with a minor in mathematics, has been a stand-out student during his time at Ripon. Recording a cumulative GPA of 3.85, he has been on the Dean's List every semester since arriving on campus. Upon graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in electrical engineering within the agriculture equipment industry.

On campus, Skyler is involved with a new physics group, dubbed the Physics Fun Force, started by Professor Emeritus Mary Williams-Norton. As part of his involvement with the group, Skyler travels to area schools with fellow classmates to put on fun demonstrations and help teach students about different properties of

physics and real-world examples.

"I had the opportunity to visit Ripon Middle School this past semester, where we made 'oobleck'—a silly putty type material made from cornstarch—with the kids," explains Skyler. "The kids examined it, and we taught them how to analyze materials they haven't seen before."

Skyler's most memorable class thus far has been modern physics because it provides a good introduction to quantum physics, which is very important for the study of nuclear science, one of Skyler's many areas of interest.

In his spare time, Skyler is a proud member of the Markesan volunteer fire department and Campus Crusade for Christ. "We meet once per week and I've gone on a couple of trips with the group," says Skyler. "It's been a lot of fun."



Most students attending Wisconsin's 23 private, nonprofit colleges and universities come from Wisconsin and most of these students have financial need. Among the undergraduate student body in 2011-12, over 31,000 FTE students called Wisconsin home; 78 percent of these students received need-based financial aid.

Source: WAICU research archives

Asya Poglazova continued from page 1

my future and that I would find a way to pay for school, the grants being one of them." After one week of attending classes, Asya realized that her mother was right, Columbia College was the right choice for her.

Asya never thought that she would attend a small private college. She is now a senior at CCON and realizes that there is nothing better for her than the small class sizes where the teacher knows who you are and can help you on a personal level. "It seems like, at this college, everyone is working hard to help you get a fantastic

education and is looking out for the students. Everyone genuinely wants to see us succeed," she says.

Asya currently works as a pharmacy technician, and would like to start volunteering for Children's Hospital in Milwaukee as well as start working at a hospital near her to help realize her future as a nurse. She also wants to continue her education and get her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree either in acute adult care, or acute pediatric or neonatal care. "I have always wanted to help my community and give back; going to Columbia College

of Nursing and receiving the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is helping me accomplish my goals."



Join the PFA campaign at www.poweroffinancialaid.org

Wisconsin's Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

- Alverno College *Milwaukee*
- Bellin College *Green Bay*
- Beloit College *Beloit*
- Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
- Carroll University *Waukesha*
- Carthage College *Kenosha*
- Columbia College of Nursing *Milwaukee*
- Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*

- Edgewood College *Madison*
- Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
- Lawrence University *Appleton*
- Marian University *Fond du Lac*
- Marquette University *Milwaukee*
- Medical College of Wisconsin *Milwaukee*
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*

- Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*
- Mount Mary College *Milwaukee*
- Northland College *Ashland*
- Ripon College *Ripon*
- St. Norbert College *De Pere*
- Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
- Viterbo University *La Crosse*
- Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

