

About the WTG

The twenty private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 60,000 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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WTG helps foster college dreams and future goals

For Matthew Pena, selecting a college that fit his goals was not an easy task.

At the start of his college search, with so many variables to consider, Matthew was unsure of where he should apply. However, with a welcoming Marian University experience, and the help of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid, he was able to enroll at Marian. "I was really looking for a col-



Matthew Pena, of Burlington, helps share his passion for his education, sports, and Marian University.

lege that had a close-knit community and that would allow me opportunities to

learn, have fun, and to network, as well as a place where I could find a major that fit my goals," said Matthew.

A sophomore Sport and Recreation Management major, Matthew is enjoying linking his passion for sports to his future career.

continued on page 2

The student becomes the teacher with help from WTG

One of the first things Milwaukee native Anna Blankschien noticed when she toured Beloit College four years ago was how intimate it felt. "I liked how everyone seemed interested in me as a person, instead of treating me as a number," she says. "It seemed like I would be able to learn what I wanted at Beloit."



Anna Blankschien, of Milwaukee, found both a career path and a supportive environment at Beloit College.

Anna's initial impression of the college was not misleading. Now a senior, she remembers how—while writ-

ing a final paper for a first-year seminar course—she chose to discuss writing as an emotional outlet. The course professor put her in contact

with Steven Wright, a faculty member who is renowned on the Beloit campus for taking an active interest in student work. Over several meetings, Wright read drafts of Anna's final paper

and gave her constructive feedback.

"He made me realize how

continued on page 2

Matthew Pena continued from page 1

Having been involved in sports in high school, Matthew wanted to find a career that allowed him to follow his dream, but he needed financial support to make this dream a reality. As a Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient, Matthew says that the WTG has allowed him to attend the college that is right for him. “The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped to minimize my loans and support the goals that I have for myself.”

Matthew participates in many activities on campus, including men’s soccer, intramural sports, the Business Mentor program, Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), and the McNair Scholars program. Matthew’s experience with the McNair Scholars program provides him the opportunity to conduct his own research involving his passions: sports and business. As for future plans, Matthew’s involvement in the Marian McNair Scholar’s program will help him fulfill his goal

of furthering his education in order to earn his master’s and, perhaps, even a doctoral degree.

Besides filling his time with studying and his other activities, Matthew works in the Office of Admission giving campus tours and helping high school students select a college that fits their life. “I really felt part of the Marian process, and I want to help others see that Marian has so much to offer,” he says.

Because of his involvement in admissions at Marian, Matthew understands that choosing a college takes time. “I know I have found a college that fits my goals and dreams. When looking at colleges, find one that fits you—something will just click, and you will know what college you can call home.”

Anna Blankschien continued from page 1

far professors are willing to go to help you learn and explore what you’re interested in,” she says.

Originally contemplating a career in journalism, Anna now wants to teach elementary school and eventually earn a master’s degree in education. “I really enjoy being around kids, and I want to facilitate a learning environment that benefits each of them and the community as a whole,” she says.

As a member of the Beloit College soccer and track teams, she has a strong apprecia-

tion of community and structure. “I think it helps give me a sense of belonging,” she says. “Participating in sports also keeps me organized, in order to save time for homework.”

Anna is grateful for the opportunity to attend Beloit College, which was enabled in part by the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. The benefit of the grant was evident to her almost immediately. “I’m not as stressed about finances, and I can focus more on academics and other things,” she explains.

The need for self-motivation is one of the

most valuable lessons Anna has learned in her time at Beloit College. “You really have to take the initiative, because what you want to learn isn’t just going to be laid out in front of you,” she says. “Professors are going to point out directions and get you thinking, but you have to be the one to ask the questions.”

Thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid, Anna will soon be teaching young minds to follow her example by asking questions and pursuing their own education.



A recent study* indicates that adequate financial aid helps students graduate faster—all the more reason why adequate and equitable funding for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant should be supported.

*conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2010

Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities

- Alverno College *Milwaukee*
- Beloit College *Beloit*
- Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
- Carroll University *Waukesha*
- Carthage College *Kenosha*
- Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*
- Edgewood College *Madison*

- Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
- Lawrence University *Appleton*
- Marian University *Fond du Lac*
- Marquette University *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 *Manitowoc*
- Viterbo University *La Crosse*
- Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

