

WTG Achievers

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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 58,000 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.

WTG Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2718; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

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Northland senior fosters sustainability



John Patrick of the Bad River Reserve, a senior at Northland College

For John Patrick, known to most of the Northland College community as simply "JP," Native American studies is more than just a major. For

John, it is the study of his own people and his own history. A proud member of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, he is a senior at Northland College slated to graduate in May 2009. He is also pursuing minors in outdoor education and civil liberties. A dedicated student and an active member in the campus community, John is grateful that his education is made possible by support from Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other similar programs.

"I'm an independent," said John. "So I'm taking this all on my own. A majority of my

financial aid comes from grants like the WTG."

John graduated from Phillips High School in north central Wisconsin in 1996 and enrolled in Chippewa Valley Technical College to pursue a degree in criminal justice. After two years he left school to pursue other interests. In 2005, he enrolled at Northland College.

"My mom had been encouraging me to go to Northland for a long time," said John. "I had some family and friends of the family that went there, so when I was ready to go

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WTG recipient makes the most of human resources at Marian University



Josh Ingram of Harrisville, a junior at Marian University

"I want to do well in all my classes and make a difference in the Marian community." That's what Josh Ingram of

Marian University said without hesitation when asked his aspirations during his college career.

Indeed, the full-time junior, human resource management major from Harrisville is well on his way to making that difference. Josh is involved in many activities and groups on campus such as the Business Club, and he is also a student accompanist for Marian's Women's Chorale. What's more, he is a member of the Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation Committee and the treasurer for the Society of Human Resource Management.

In addition to being involved in volunteer organizations on campus, Josh also holds a campus job as a Resident Assistant for freshman males. Along with his schoolwork and other activities, Josh spends most his evenings and weekends building community with his residents, many of whom he considers friends.

Currently, Josh is just over halfway through his college career and expects to graduate in May, 2010. He says he chose to go to Marian because of the atmosphere, "The size of the school and the quality of the

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JOHN PATRICK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

back to school, that's where I applied."

John was drawn to Northland by three things: the location on Lake Superior, the unique academic programs, and last, but not least, the financial aid. When he first came to the college he intended to major in environmental studies, but soon declared Native American studies instead.

John is involved with several organizations on campus. For two years he has served as a member of the Northland College Environmental Council, a group of students, faculty, and staff working to improve sustainability. He is also highly involved in the Native American Student Association (NASA). This year will be his fourth year with NASA, including two years as vice president of the club and one year as president. During his time with the organization he has helped to plan the All-Campus Convocation, Native American Awareness Week events, and the annual

Northland College Spring Pow Wow. In addition, he has led groups to collect and gather materials for arts and crafts and arranged carpools to other Pow Wows and events in the region.

Beyond the campus, John has worked for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission during the summers and serves as an active member in the Penokee Range Alliance, a grassroots organization that monitors applications for mining rights in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

When asked "what's next," John isn't quite sure. "Work...grad school...whichever happens first," he says. "I would like to work for the Tribe more if I can. Eventually, I would like to go to grad school—something in sustainability, but I haven't found the right program yet." One thing is sure: helping John and other students get an education will lead to sustainability for Wisconsin.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Higher education leads directly to work for most college graduates, specifically in managerial, professional, or technical/support occupations—currently the fastest-growing fields in the U.S.

U.S. Census Bureau

JOSH INGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

instructors really made me excited to come here."

Today, Josh fits right in the campus community. People smile and say "hi" to him on the sidewalk, which is completely in keeping with Marian's atmosphere. Josh knows most of the people, at least by face if not by name, who stop to talk to him.

When he first started college, Josh worried about how he was going to pay for his education. He applied for every possible scholarship and worked with the financial aid office at Marian to review all of his

possibilities. Josh realized he had qualified for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant while reviewing his financial aid award letter his first semester of school.

The WTG has made it possible for Josh to be the best student he can while at Marian. "The assistance in financial aid was a great help," Josh said, "The grant has allowed me to focus on my studies rather than be concerned about my financial situation." His work-study job as a Resident Assistant has helped as well.

After graduating from Marian, Josh plans

on working in the field of human resources, but at the same time he wants to learn more by attaining both a master's and doctoral degree. Following all of his planned schooling, Josh would like to teach human resources at the college level.

Josh also had some insights for new students on choosing a school, "Ask yourself if the environment fits you, and whether you believe that the school gives you the best opportunity to succeed." By achieving great success at Marian University, he may have just let his secret out.

Wisconsin's Private Colleges and Universities

Alverno College *Milwaukee*
 Beloit College *Beloit*
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
 Carroll University *Waukesha*
 Carthage College *Kenosha*
 Concordia University *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*

