

About the WTG

The twenty 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 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.

WTG Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

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Strong family bonds motivate future teacher

When Megan Frisque graduated from Milton High School in 2009, attending Concordia University meant she was continuing a family tradition.

"I have three older brothers and one younger sister. We are all 18 months or less apart in age and have either attended Concordia or are currently enrolled at the university, as of this year," says Megan.



Megan Frisque, of Milton, is a junior at Concordia University. She plans to become an elementary school teacher.

The financial burden on a family with five kids attending college is more than chal-

lenging. Megan says receiving the Wisconsin Tuition Grant each year is important because without it things would be a lot different for her.

"I am paying for college on my own and going into teaching," says Megan.

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Community service has a transformational effect

Milwaukee native Raven Eggson-Washington is a junior at Edgewood College, majoring in psychology. And this fall, she's making a significant impact on campus, in the classroom, and in the community. Raven—who enjoys the support of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant to make her education possible—is serving in an internship for the United Way of Dane County, as a 'loaned executive.' Raven shares stories of service, and of the power of philanthropy, at businesses



Raven Eggson-Washington, of Milwaukee, is inspired to make a difference in her community.

and organizations throughout Greater Madison.

To prepare for the assignment, Raven completed two and a

half weeks of nine-hour-a-day training before embarking on her outreach to Dane County organizations. Raven says that training was all she needed.

"Once you start to hear the personal stories,

and you see the impact that people can have on the community, it makes you feel like it's your duty to go out there

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“Even though I love it so much, I know the teaching profession will not help me pay off my loans very quickly, so the Wisconsin Tuition Grant really helps,” she adds.

Megan’s brother Marshal is a recent graduate of Concordia and now works at the university in the marketing department as the Social Media Manager. Clearly, this is a supportive family. Marshal says it’s a true blessing to see his sister on campus on a regular basis.

“She is a passionate individual and works well with everyone,” Marshal added.

Megan has a plan for her life which includes graduating, finding a teaching job, getting married, and helping as many children as she can along the way.

In the time she’s been at Concordia she has made a tremendous impact, according to those who know her best. Marshal introduced her to campus ministry and encouraged her to get involved with campus activities early on, and she has done just that.

Besides studying, Megan is a Resident Assistant (RA) at one of the dormitories on campus, is involved in intramural sports, and loves being outdoors. She also has a creative side and says she enjoys the arts.

Megan and Marshal’s younger sister Lauren is a freshman this year at Concordia. Megan will now serve as a mentor and help Lauren adjust to college life, just as her older siblings helped her find her niche and calling in elementary education.



During 2010-2011, Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities conferred 13,083 degrees—a new record.

The number of degrees granted has grown 32 percent since 2000-2001.

Source: IPEDS Completions Survey

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and let people know,” she says. “The cause speaks louder than any fear you may have about getting up there and speaking. Once you get to that personal story, that personal connection, you just feel obligated to do as much as you possibly can, because there really are people who need this.”

It’s a need that Raven has already seen, and a role that allows her to take meaningful action. “For me coming from Milwaukee, it’s not something that’s foreign to me, but to see (the United Way) placing so much emphasis on it, and doing the planning and goal-setting, addressing the problems, to

me that was just a breath of fresh air, something that I could really commit myself to.”

“I’ve seen people in the same circumstances that the United Way focuses on,” she says. “I know families who have had to make really tough decisions (to make ends meet) in their lives. Or the elderly suffering and having their family not know what to do.” Raven says she’s seen firsthand how agencies can support families in need. She recalled one such family where a son was struggling to care for his bed-ridden father, who was assumed to suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. Professionals with a service agency were

able to help determine that a bad combination of medications was actually causing the symptoms. “Just knowing this work is going to have a positive effect on his life, and on his loved ones, brings the whole circle together for me.”

Raven Eggson-Washington, a WTG recipient, recognizes the transformation that’s taking place, both around her and in herself. “Having an effect on people, when I felt like I couldn’t before, that’s where my passion comes from,” she says. “I think that’s where I’m able to go to sleep at night and think, ‘I did a good thing today.’”

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 of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
- Viterbo University *La Crosse*
- Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

