

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.

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Beloit athlete finds the balance between sports and art

Erika Moen didn't need to go far, only fifteen miles, to find her perfect fit in a college.

Now a Beloit College junior, the Janesville native always had a positive impression of the liberal arts institution in neighboring Beloit.

"Beloit College has a reputation of academic excellence," she explained, "and it's close to home."

Erika saw the close proximity



Erika Moen, Janesville, divides her time between a love of track and field and her studio arts major.

of her home and her chosen college as a positive asset.

Erika is studying studio

art and minoring in museum studies and art history. She has found ways to integrate her many interests, which is one of her favorite things about the school.

While some students would find planning their schedules

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"Living to serve" marks one student's collegiate journey

Scott Gordon is the king of understatement. At six-foot-three, Scott does not need to be loud to draw attention.

This soft-spoken senior, who loves working with children, is a gentle giant. Enrolled in the special education department at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, Scott is well-known for his big heart and compassionate nature.

Scott was raised in an environment which encourages



Scott Gordon, Manitowoc, has a reputation as a big man on campus for helping the children who need him most.

independence without being self-centered, and it shows in many ways. Scott's mother, Linda, is an aide in the special education department at a

he intends to continue that tradition.

Scott wants to earn his mas-

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Manitowoc junior high school. His sister, Melissa, is a teacher for visually impaired students in Milwaukee. Scott's family always has been dedicated to serving the needs of others and

Erika Moen

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to be a chore, Erika loves selecting her courses, picking from divergent departments. "I'm always excited to pick out classes for the next semester," she said.

Erika stays busy outside of the classroom as well, competing as a track and field athlete and serving on the Beloit College Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

But it was Erika's artistic muscle that was flexed this spring when she won best of show in the college's annual *Artletics* exhibit. She entered her black-and-white charcoal portrait, "Mother and Child," into *Artletics*, a three-year-old program designed to showcase the artistic talents of Beloit College's athletes.

"I will be running the *Artletics* art show this year for my special project for the museum studies

requirement and interning at a museum next semester—I'm hopeful it's an art museum," she said. After a possible stint in graduate school for museum studies or graphic design, her dream job is to work as an artist for Nickelodeon Studios.

Erika is grateful for the peace of mind provided by the financial aid that helps her attend Beloit. "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant takes a large amount of stress off my shoulders when considering how I will pay for school," she said.

Whether Erika is working at an easel, practicing with her track teammates, or organizing a museum exhibit, this athlete-artist can give it her complete focus knowing her tuition is, as she said, "one less thing that I have to worry about on top of grades, extracurricular activities, family, and friends."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Each year, more than 8,300 people earn a bachelor's degree from a Wisconsin private nonprofit college or university, accounting for one-third of the state's business and engineering degrees and nearly one-half of the nursing degrees.

Source: WAICU research archives

Scott Gordon

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ter's in special education in order to serve the special needs of children. He currently works part-time in the community with autistic children and their families.

Scott is one of an estimated 10,000 students who will receive the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) this year. With the help of the WTG, Scott will be able to pursue his dreams of working with children.

This past May, Scott worked with the college's student council to organize the first-ever wheelchair basketball game for the Exceptional Child Club at Silver Lake.

For the basketball game Scott worked with the Special Olympics of Manitowoc, the Life Teen Center, and other Silver Lake student volunteers.

The goal was to level the playing field for everyone. All players were required to play, able-bodied or not, from a wheelchair. In a last minute shot, the Special Olympic team came from behind and won the game by a single point.

Scott feels he is the winner. As the coach for the Manitowoc Special Olympics team, Scott feels he has learned patience and

understanding. "Our players are always happy," Scott said, "so why should I be worried?"

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has given Scott the chance to stay in school, to become the teacher so many children with learning disabilities need, and to have a positive impact on the Silver Lake community.

The Manitowoc native will graduate next spring and return for the fall session as a student teacher.

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*

