

WTG *Achievers*

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About WTG

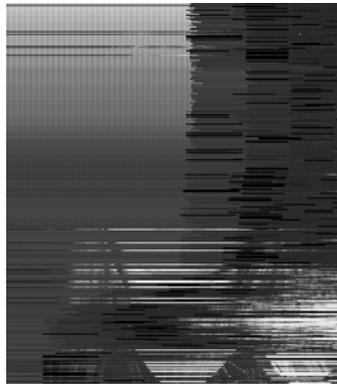
The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating more than 52,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.

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16 N. Carroll St., Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703
608-256-776,
Fax 608-256-7065
mail@waicuweb.org

Dr. Rolf Wegenke
President
Dr. Mari McCarty
VP for Research and
Information, Editor
Mr. David Dies
VP for Public Policy
Ms. Carol Hart
Executive Assistant
Ms. Mary Lloyd
Secretary

WTG Helps Future Teacher at Edgewood



Amber Eldred of Brodhead, a junior at Edgewood College

Throughout her life, Amber Eldred dreamed of being able to attend college after graduating from high school. Thanks to the Wisconsin

Tuition Grant and other aid, that dream has come true.

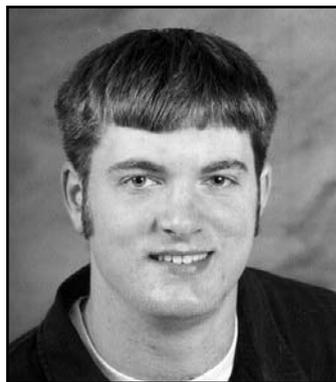
When asked how she felt about receiving the WTG, Amber replied, "I'm very appreciative of the money that I've been granted to help me go to college, and I am happy to say that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant truly has helped me in my education." With assistance from financial aid, Amber, a junior majoring in English education, has enjoyed the benefits that will lead her to a successful future as an English teacher.

As the oldest of four girls in a middle-class family, Amber

knew how hard she would have to work to earn the money she needed to attend college. "Although it has not been easy, I have managed to do just that: working and going to school full-time and still maintaining a high enough grade-point average in order to stay eligible for scholarships and grants," said Amber. She went on to say, "I appreciate all the financial help, like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, that has put me on the path to a successful life after graduation."

Along with school, Amber keeps busy as the owner of a
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Ripon Senior Prepares for Teaching Career



Alex Baker of Walworth, a senior at Ripon College

"Teachers are immeasurably important," says Alex Baker, a senior English major and middle/secondary education and theatre minor at Ripon College. "It took me until now to realize just how far their

influence stretches, but today I realize all the ways in which they have impacted my life."

Alex has coached baseball and basketball teams, directed theatrical productions, and worked with students in the classroom. The more he interacts with young people, he says, the more certain he is that teaching is what he is supposed to be doing.

Alex, who receives a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, appreciates the financial support it offers. "Ripon College has given me a lot of valuable opportunities, and I am grateful for the generosity and support of so many people

that make it possible for me to be here," he says.

A graduate of Big Foot High School in Walworth, Alex has been an active participant in campus life since he came to Ripon. He is a member of the baseball team, leadership development chair of the Student Media and Activities Committee, a resident assistant, a DJ for the campus radio station, and a member of the student singing group the Choraliers. He is also a tutor and a member of Campus Christian Fellowship; the Laurel, a senior honor society; and Sigma Tau Delta, an English honor society.

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AMBER ELDRED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

basket business, and she also has a job at a car dealership in Madison. In addition, she is a member of the Edgewood Student Education Association and the Edgewood Honors Committee for the Honors Program. "I'm very happy to be here at Edgewood. The atmosphere is pleasant, the people are nice, and I like the small class sizes," said Amber.

Prior to entering Edgewood College in the fall of 1999, Amber graduated with honors a year early from Brodhead High School, where she was involved in cheerleading (as a captain), volleyball, band, jazz band, concert choir, show choir, Solo & Ensemble competitions, and the National Honor Society. She was also enrolled in accelerated classes, served as a class officer, and held a part-time job throughout high school. In recognition of her achievements, she lettered in cheerleading, academics, show choir and jazz band. She also received numerous

awards for her performances during Solo & Ensemble competitions.

Amber is one of thousands of students who receive the Wisconsin Tuition Grant each year in order to help defray the expenses of attending one of Wisconsin's independent colleges and universities. Amber qualified for the maximum WTG amount of \$2,300.

Amber notes, "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant truly has helped in my education and is making my dream a reality. I can't wait to begin my career as a teacher, so I can begin giving back to the community. I'm grateful to everyone who helped me along the way."

Amber's current success bodes well for her future pupils, who will learn from a teacher blessed with a superb college education, thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Over the decade from 1989-1990 to 1999-2000, 38 states increased the proportion of their undergraduate students receiving need-based grants, but in Wisconsin, the proportion of aided undergraduates declined, putting our state near the bottom of the list.

ALEX BAKER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This spring Alex was awarded the college's Lucy Smith Morris Shakespeare Prize in English for excellent achievement in the study of Shakespeare.

"I can't imagine that it gets much better than Ripon," says Alex. "Everyone seems to look out for everyone else; everyone is wonderfully supportive. It is the best kind of learning environment, and that's something that I hope to be able to create in my own classroom."

Alex says that there are many reasons that he has chosen to pursue teaching. "Of course I want to help people learn, but

there's more to it than that. I am fascinated by all kinds of subject areas. I have a deep love for learning. As a teacher, I want to instill that love for learning in others," he says.

When Alex is not participating in college activities, he spends time volunteering in the community. He helped to direct an area high-school theater production last year, and in addition, he has dedicated his time to the student-started Have a Catch program, in which members of the baseball team visit a Ripon elementary school each week and play catch with fourth- and fifth-grade students, many

from single parent homes. The players help the children not only with baseball skills, but with study skills as well.

"I know how much what we do means to the kids," says Alex of his involvement with Have a Catch. "But I'm quite certain they don't know how much it means to us. It's kids and baseball – two things I love. Once a week, Have a Catch is the best part of my day."

Thanks to financial aid like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, future generations of middle- and high-school students will be able to benefit from Alex's enthusiasm.

Wisconsin's Private Colleges and Universities

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

Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
 Lawrence University *Appleton*
 Marian College *Fond du Lac*
 Marquette University *Milwaukee*
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*
 Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*
 Mount Mary College *Milwaukee*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*



From here, you can go anywhere.