

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)

SPRING 2022 VOL. 54 NO. 1



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

INDEPENDENT INSIGHTS

WAICU 2022 in 2022 advocacy campaign

2022 Advocates in 2022 #WIGrants

the legislative process, such as just prior to votes in committee or by a house of the state Legislature or Congress.

WAICU's goal is to increase the number of individuals signed up for our calls-to-action to 2,022 by the end of 2022. Again, any supporter can sign up to engage in this advocacy work including presidents, students, faculty and staff, trustees, alumni/ae, and anyone else who supports educational opportunity.

Wisconsin Grants go to students attending UW, WTCS, or WAICU. As of this writing, 126 individuals have signed up to participate in the campaign. We have a lot of work to do to get to 2022 individuals and are confident those that support student opportunity will sign up to help us meet our goal!

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WAICU's mission is "working together for educational opportunity." We are now taking the "together" part to the next level. WAICU is providing a new tool known as Congress Plus to empower university executives, trustees, students, alumni/ae, and friends to emphatically underscore support for critical student aid programs such as Wisconsin Grants and the Federal Pell Grant program. These are the main student aid programs for low-income students at the state and Federal level. Congress Plus allows individuals to send messages to elected officials at critical points in the legislative process.

WAICU is working to significantly increase our advocacy base to encourage powerful calls-to-action to our elected officials during key points in

WAICU members are committed to supporting veterans

WAICU-member colleges and universities appreciate the value of the experience, training, and education that veterans acquire while they serve in the military. The newly developed *WAICU Joint Commitment to Accept Student Military Transfer Credit* makes it easier for active duty and military veterans to make informed plans to transform military experience into college credit at a member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Developed with the guidance of a working group of WAICU-member representatives, the *Joint Commitment* details how seventeen participating WAICU member institutions award transfer credit to veterans for Basic Training, Advanced Training, and/or for Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs).

The ability to convert military experience and/or training into college credit can help accelerate the journey to a degree at a Wisconsin private college. This effort is important as the state strives to increase the level of educational attainment, address Wisconsin's workforce shortages, and improve WAICU-members' positions in the competitive knowledge economy.

According to WAICU President Dr. Rolf Wegenke, "Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities have long served veterans and family members of veterans. The *WAICU Joint Commitment to Accept Student Military Transfer Credit* further demonstrates support for veterans as they enter and complete postsecondary education at Wisconsin's private colleges and universities. Higher education is the gateway to opportunity, and this program recognizes that our veterans have earned their opportunity."

Several additional programs support veterans and their family members as they pursue an education at a college or university that is the best fit for them. WAICU members with undergraduate programs either participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program or have a dedicated point of contact for Veterans issues. The grant program for veterans and their dependents attending Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities includes a \$2,000 maximum grant per semester or session for the qualifying veteran, spouse, or dependent, plus a match from the college or university.

Virtual Financial Aid Presentations

College Goal Wisconsin has added spring virtual financial aid information sessions geared toward junior students and their families. Participants can learn more about funding sources for college, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and pose questions to financial aid experts.



Go to www.collegegoalwi.org to learn more.

- Tuesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Attend a college fair



Wisconsin Education Fairs (WEFs) will be held both in-person and virtually this spring. Virtual WEFs:

- Wednesday, March 2 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 6 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 27 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

WAICU will have a booth at all in-person and virtual WEFs to provide information about Wisconsin's 23 private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

More information is available at www.wefs.org

A presentation about WAICU-member colleges and universities is available at www.WisconsinsPrivateColleges.org. Requests for virtual presentations or questions may be directed to StudentAccess@waicu.org.



Save the dates! The 26th annual joint open house of WAICU members – Wisconsin Private College Week (PCW) is July 11-16, 2022. Students, their families, and school counselors are invited to take campus tours, learn about majors offered, get information on financial aid, and hear from current students about campus life.

Online registration for Wisconsin Private College Week will open in May:
www.WisconsinsPrivateColleges.org/visit

Online Resources www.WisconsinsPrivateColleges.org

Our website www.WisconsinsPrivateColleges.org is full of helpful information for the college search process:

- Overviews of each of the 23 Wisconsin private colleges and universities
- Scholarship information with links to the opportunities available at each institution
- Majors search tool
- College Snapshots with introductory slides and 2 minute mini-presentations
- Transfer information
- Student and Parent Guides to College Tours

Beloit students learn from every experience

BELOIT COLLEGE

During the inaugural Beloit & Beyond conference, held on Beloit's campus late last fall, more than 70 students gave presentations about their internships, job shadowing, volunteering, off-campus study, and other forms of engagement in the Staline area and around the world.

The day-long conference is one of three signature programs, including a January Career Accelerator and an April Student Symposium, which helps to prepare students for success after graduation.

At Beloit & Beyond, students spend the day attending sessions in which they learn from and become inspired by peers who give presentations about their passions, research, and job experiences.

The day's 8:30 a.m. start time didn't stop students from flocking to sessions with topics ranging from researching the role of social media in the Black Lives Matter

movement, to investigating tuberculosis in archaeological remains, to interviewing teachers who incorporate music into their pandemic classrooms.

Other students hosted roundtables to talk about applying to medical school, or they gave solo presentations about completing internships at the Milwaukee VA or taking a summer course in Minnesota's Boundary Waters.

Throughout the day, faculty and staff hosted sessions about extracurricular opportunities available to students.

A study-abroad fair boasted more than 90 attendees. An "escape room" guided students through the college's Career Works office throughout the day to talk to two Executives in Residence about applying for jobs.



Beloit & Beyond conference

After presentations ended for the day, students attended an open house for Career Channels, a program that helps them identify and direct their passions into job possibilities. A well-attended Local to Global Career Networking Fair, which capped the evening, featured representatives from local companies, small nonprofits, and everything in between.

The day was all about learning outside of the classroom — a Beloit specialty. ■

Alverno College nursing students work toward healthier communities

ALVERNO COLLEGE

Alverno undergraduate and graduate nursing students, along with college faculty, partnered with the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center to assist high-need Milwaukee neighborhoods with information about the coronavirus and to provide access to the COVID-19 vaccine.



Alverno DEMSN students canvass Milwaukee neighborhoods to provide health education and on-demand COVID-19 vaccines.

"This is grassroots community health nursing," said Kirsten Lezama, an assistant professor of nursing in the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions. "People have been saying: 'I never would have been vaccinated if you hadn't come to my door.'"

Porsha Brown, a student in the direct entry Master of Science in nursing program (DEMSN), is biracial and has lived in some of the predominantly African American communities that the nursing students visited. "If I have the education and the knowledge, there is nothing more I would want to do than spread that knowledge to people me and my family closely relate to," she said.

Students worked to build trust with the community and provide information in a nonjudgmental manner.

"We are not forcing anybody to do anything. Our job as nurses is to give people the right information so they can make informed decisions about their health," said Lezama.

Over the summer, 27 DEMSN students helped community health workers vaccinate nearly 400 residents in their homes.

In the fall, undergraduate nursing students connected with Hispanic residents in Milwaukee's south side, allowing students like Ruby Perla Ortiz to put their bilingual skills to work. "I was able to help break the language barrier and aid in keeping the community safe by providing education and addressing unanswered questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccination," she said.

Classmate Isabel Colón was inspired to propose her family's restaurant as a site for a mobile vaccination clinic. On a chilly Tuesday in November, eight more people received their COVID-19 vaccine. ■

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Ripon College achieves highest fundraising year ever

RIPON COLLEGE



Amari Poe '25 of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is receiving assistance through the recently established Richard V. and Frances S. Dietrich Trust Scholarship, established in the names of the parents of Professor Emeritus of Music Kurt Dietrich and his siblings.

The 2021 fiscal year was a record-breaker for Ripon College. The College achieved its most successful and largest fundraising year in its history. More than \$16.5 million in new gift production was realized.

“This record-breaking performance was anchored by the creation of several seven-figure endowed scholarships to address access and equity issues,” said Shawn Karsten '09, vice president for advancement and marketing and communications.

Major scholarships were established to help bring a more diverse population to the college:

- The Richard V. and Frances S. Dietrich Trust Scholarship and Richard V. and Frances S. Dietrich Faculty Development Fund, with a combined value of more than \$2 million, focus on first-generation students with financial need and creating opportunities for faculty. They were established in the name of the parents of Professor Emeritus of Music Kurt Dietrich and his siblings.

- The Conforti and Chemerow Scholarship will benefit graduates of Tremper High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin, who display financial need and improve Ripon's racial and ethnic diversity. It was established by Doreen Conforti Chemerow '73 and her husband, David I. Chemerow.

- The Franzen/Cristo Rey Endowed Scholarship will benefit graduates of Cristo Rey Jesuit, a high school in Milwaukee. The focus of this scholarship is first-generation students. It was established by Mark Franzen '83 and Janice Heinz Franzen '83.

Other notable support came with a new five-year grant of \$1.4 million to the Student Support Services program by the U.S. Department of Education, TRIO division; more than \$3 million was raised for the Ripon Fund; and the endowment surpassed the \$100 million mark for the first time, and now, less than a year later, the endowment stands at \$116 million. ■

Lawrence University reimagines what a science classroom can be

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



The Science Learning Commons at Lawrence University brings a more interactive and collaborative approach to intro science courses.

Lawrence University science faculty worked closely with architects to reimagine how a science lecture hall could and should work.

More specifically, how Room 121 in Youngchild Hall could be transformed from a tiered lecture hall into an interactive classroom divided into a dozen tables, each seating four to six students and equipped

with technology to keep every student engaged, be it in a lecture or in a lab.

All that work came to fruition with the recent unveiling of the Science Learning Commons.

“I kind of had to collect myself a little bit,” chemistry professor Stefan Debbert said of his emotions that first day of class. “It was a great moment.”

Lawrence donors funded the renovation. Preparations for how to best utilize the remodeled space was supported by a \$1 million grant to Lawrence from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute through the Science Education Program to implement its Inclusive Excellence Initiative.

By creating a more interactive and inclusive environment, the science faculty hoped to showcase the collaborative nature and

beauty of the sciences.

“Part of being a scientist is talking to other people and working together, putting stuff on the board, and being wrong,” Debbert said. “It's amazing how much of that attitude and emotional work we do in these science courses, but that's a big part of the job.”

The room is equipped with two large projector screens, allowing the professor to use them for different purposes simultaneously. Each student table has a screen connected to the screens up front. Microphones at each table allow for easy interaction. Document cameras give faculty new options for sharing materials.

“In terms of inclusion, I think it's a huge step forward,” biology professor Beth De Stasio said. “We can have students in groups, we easily monitor who is talking, who's not; is anyone being left out?” ■

WLC announces Exercise Science program accreditation

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE (WLC)

In January 2022, the Exercise Science program at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) was awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The recent peer review conducted by the Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (CoAES) and CAAHEP's Board of Directors recognizes the program's compliance with the nationally established accreditation standards.

The national accreditation standards are established by CAAHEP, CoAES, American College of Sports Medicine, American Council on Exercise, American Kinesiotherapy Association, American Red Cross, National Academy of Sports Medicine, and National Council on Strength & Fitness.

WLC's Bachelor of Science in Sport and Exercise Science program becomes one of only 64 baccalaureate programs nationally, and the only Exercise Science program in



Students in Wisconsin Lutheran College's Sport and Exercise Science major conduct VO2 max testing in the exercise science lab.

Wisconsin to be accredited by CAAHEP. The accreditation underscores the commitment WLC demonstrates to continuous quality improvement in education.

"Since the launch of WLC's Sport and Exercise Science major in 2011, the program has seen curriculum enhancements, new labs and equipment, and increasing enrollment. The CAAHEP accreditation is a testimony to the students and alumni who have provided feedback and continue to stay involved, and it is also a reflection on the wonderful faculty

who teach within the program," said Prof. Rachel Kuehl, Department Head of Sport and Exercise Science. "CAAHEP accreditation recognizes that our students are well prepared for the workforce or graduate school upon finishing their baccalaureate at WLC."

Students enrolled in the college's Sport and Exercise Science program learn by doing, taking advantage of small, active, and hands-on lab experiences. In 2019, the college opened a new exercise science lab, which features gold-standard equipment, including a hydrostatic weighing tank for underwater weighing and body composition measurements, Watt and Monark bikes, force plates, and a force plate treadmill. In addition to extensive lab training, students engage in experiential learning through internships in Milwaukee's medical centers and hospitals, undergraduate research projects, and dual-degree opportunities. ■

Bellin College enhances student learning through Urban Immersion program

BELLIN COLLEGE

As part of the undergraduate nursing curriculum, Bellin College students participate in a weeklong clinical experience, Urban Immersion, working with vulnerable populations in the greater Green Bay area. This opportunity allows students to interact with all types of individuals they may encounter in their professional careers while exploring issues of social justice and understanding the importance of affordable and accessible healthcare.

"Urban Immersion is a great way for our students to explore their personal implicit biases, learn about different topics within public health, and become familiar with services provided to vulnerable populations so they can become better caregivers," faculty member Kathie DeMuth said.

Bellin College partners with a variety of agencies, including Exceptional Equestrians,

Paul's Pantry, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), YMCA, House of Hope, St. John's Homeless Shelter, Community Services Agency Inc. (COMSA), and more. "Community" is a core value at Bellin College, and the Urban Immersion program allows students to give back while dedicating themselves to the broader college mission.

"The Bellin College Urban Immersion program has been one of my favorite groups to work with. They are so engaged and really want to know about our customers and how our resources will help them in their nursing practice," Barbara Michaels with ADRC of Brown County said.



Bellin College students participating in Urban Immersion

Students also find great value in the program, as it is a great way to give back to the community while building the skills needed to provide quality patient care.

"I feel such gratitude to be able to participate in this program," a Bellin College 15-month BSN student said. "Finding ways to give back to our community is so important for our own development, and for the community as well." ■

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Concordia now offers life coaching services to students at no charge

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Concordia University Wisconsin continues to diversify its portfolio of mental health and wellness offerings for its students in an effort to meet the practice of alignment with the CUW's mission.

This past fall, the university launched a life coach pilot program that is available at no cost to all currently enrolled students. Concordia is the only university in the state to include life coaching among its repertoire of services for students.

Life coaches are a type of wellness professional who help individuals make progress in their lives through strategies such as goal setting, accountability, and confronting cognitive distortions. The life coaching program at Concordia is aimed at students who are facing acute struggles that are more short-term in nature, as opposed to those who need ongoing mental health services. Students continue to have access to licensed counselors through CUW's Counseling Center for the latter.

"We recognize that we have a broad spectrum of students that we serve at Concordia in terms of their cultural backgrounds, belief systems, and wellness needs," said Professor Tracy Tuffey, emeritus professor and one of Concordia's life coaches. "The goal is to expand the options they have in front of them so that they can find encouragement, support, and help."

The coaching program is just the latest in a line of innovative wellness programs the university has implemented. In 2014, Concordia became the first known university in the nation to pilot a program that utilizes a certified comfort dog in a full-time capacity for students' benefit.

Additionally, Concordia is the only university in the state, and one of few nationwide, to offer SMART Lab services. SMART, which stands for stress management and resiliency



Six Concordia professors pursued life coach credentialing over the summer to serve as a new type of resource for CUW students.

training, is a designated space on campus that grants students access to tools including biometric feedback (or biofeedback) and online educational modules that teach strategies like mindfulness and breathing techniques, which have been proven to reduce stress or feelings of panic. ■

Congratulations to the latest Phil Hauck Scholarship recipient at St. Norbert College

ST. NORBERT COLLEGE

Lisa Strandberg of Neenah, Wis. was selected as the most recent recipient of the Phil Hauck Scholarship at St. Norbert College. The scholarship covers half the cost of books, fees and tuition for an individual pursuing an MBA through the Schneider School, or half the cost of books, fees and materials for participation in the core program of the Center for Exceptional Leadership (CEL).

Strandberg is pursuing her MBA at St. Norbert. She is the community engagement director at Pillars in Appleton, Wis., a nonprofit that provides shelter, support, and solutions to address the housing needs that destabilize children and families.

A longtime champion of the local community, Phil Hauck continues to be a strong supporter of nonprofit agencies in the region. The Phil Hauck Scholarship

for Nonprofit Leaders was established at St. Norbert College in recognition of Hauck's efforts.

Hauck has served for decades as a mentor to business leaders and an advisor to organizations throughout the region. As a longtime TEC/Vistage chair, he has guided dozens of CEOs in northeast Wisconsin in their pursuit of personal and organizational improvement and growth.

He also co-founded the St. Norbert College CEO Breakfast & Strategy Series, the linchpin of the college's outreach to the business community.

Applicants must be employed by a nonprofit, and, if applying for the CEL, must also be in a leadership role. For more information, go to <https://schneider-school.snc.edu/academics/hauckscholarship.html>

For more information on the CEL application, contact Dean Stewart, executive director of the CEL, at dean.stewart@snc.edu. For more information on the MBA application, contact Brenda Busch, associate director of graduate recruitment, at brenda.busch@snc.edu. To donate to the Phil Hauck Scholarship, go to <https://giving.snc.edu/givingpages/hauckscholarship.html> ■



Lisa Strandberg, Phil Hauck Scholarship recipient

WAICU will not share your information for any other purpose. Student aid is not a partisan issue; it is the key to a brighter future for Wisconsin.

WAICU will be sharing milestones and progress reports throughout 2022 and is asking everyone to engage! As changes made in the FAFSA Simplification Act will soon be implemented and affecting Federal and State student aid formulas, our vocal support for low-income and underrepresented students will be more important than ever!

Take action today by signing up for our advocacy list at <https://bit.ly/WAICU2022in2022>, or email wigrants@waicu.org or visit our website www.waicu.org to share your support for students and student opportunity.

Sincerely,



Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President



P.S. Drop me an email at mail@waicu.org when you sign up!

WAICU BULLETIN BOARD

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Henry J. Predolin Foundation recently announced a grant of \$925,000 to **Edgewood College**. This grant will provide scholarships for approximately 135 students—incoming first year students, upper classmen, and transfer students.
- **Marian University's** Working Families Program (WFP) – one of the nation's most comprehensive educational programs available to low-income single parents – recently celebrated 20 years of service in the Fond du Lac community.
- **Marquette University** has received a two-year, \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense for an interdisciplinary program, "Novel Technologies to Mitigate Water Contamination for Resilient Infrastructure," to develop novel, sustainable technologies to protect the environment and to provide clean drinking water.
- The Ladish Foundation Children of Employees Scholarship, which is administered by **WAICU**, has been increased from \$5,000 to \$8,000 beginning in fall 2022.
- **Marquette University** President Michael R. Lovell announced that alumni couple Louis and Suzanne Bouquet Andrew have committed \$5 million to establish the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice at Marquette Law School.
- Two investigative teams from the **Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)** have been awarded the 2021 Falk Medical Trust Catalyst Award. The advanced research projects—one under Nikki Johnston, Ph.D. and another under Hongwei Yu, M.D. and Quinn Hogan, M.D.—have each been awarded a grant of up to \$300,000 to support the planning and development of projects, teams, tools, techniques, and management infrastructure necessary to lay the foundation for a subsequent Transformational Award, a \$1 million grant.
- The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board bestowed its highest honor upon Dr. Rolf Wegenke, retiring president and chief executive officer of **WAICU**. The Futuremaker Partner Award was established to honor businesses and individuals who champion WTCS colleges and students.
- Jackie Lewis, a 1960 **Marquette University** Klingler College of Arts and Sciences alumna, has committed to a gift of \$2 million to build on her longstanding support for the university's distinctive Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington, D.C.
- The Coalition for College Cost Savings (The Coalition) is a national organization that supports state-level higher education associations by creating nationwide collaborative opportunities to transform processes, reduce cost, and increase efficiencies. **WAICU** senior vice president for collaborative services Ms. Jennifer deHart will serve on The Coalition's Marketing Advisory Committee.
- The City of Beloit will receive \$9 million in pandemic-related aid from the State of Wisconsin to help jumpstart the development of a Community Outreach and Engagement Center at **Beloit College**.
- **Marian University** held an on-campus vaccine clinic run by Marian medical students in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

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WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
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“When you know better you do better.”

Maya Angelou

WAICU: WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE, NONPROFIT COLLEGES WORKING TOGETHER FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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BULLETIN BOARD

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NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **Marquette University** has announced the establishment of the Center for Data, Ethics, and Society within the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences to address the ethical, social, and political dimensions of an increasingly data-driven society.
- **The Medical College of Wisconsin-Green Bay (MCW)** and **St. Norbert College** are partnering to offer high school students two Summer Academy of Medicine experiences on June 14-17 and June 21-24.
- **Marquette University's** College of Nursing, Office of Economic Engagement and Froedtert Hospital have announced a clinical training partnership that will develop graduate nurses who are “practice-ready” and reduce orientation time as they enter the workforce.

APPOINTMENTS

- Richard “Rick” Trietley has been named the 10th president of **Viterbo University**. Trietley has served as the interim president of Viterbo since June 25, 2021.