

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct 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 Wisconsin Tuition Grant, now known as Wisconsin Grants, was enacted in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Each month Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU member campuses for whom Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.

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Carthage College senior excels at entrepreneurship

Katie Krizan, a rising senior at Carthage College, always dreamed of starting her own business. She thought of it as a long-term goal — one that would have to wait until she graduated — until, that is, an incredible opportunity allowed her to pursue her dream while still in college.

A communication major with minors in Asian studies and business administration, Katie was accepted to The Commons, a Milwaukee-based innovation accelerator program. For nine weeks of her sophomore year, she and a team from ManpowerGroup collaborated to develop a digital solution that would remind clients to update their resumes.

The next year, Katie brought her own startup idea to The Commons: Breathe Buddy, a portable carrying case for liquid oxygen. The idea was inspired by her mom, who requires liquid oxygen and needed an easier way to carry the eight-pound oxygen canisters.

Katie, who received internship credit for the project, says the customized design of the case differentiates the product. It's intended to be a confidence-booster.

"It shows who they are as a person, rather than just a patient," she explains.

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Katie Krizan

Columbia College of Nursing student paves new paths

After working in the construction industry for a number of years, Lauren Boguslawske realized the next road he wanted to pave was the path to becoming a nurse. He knew he wanted a job that would allow him to make a difference in the lives of others and support them during their most vulnerable moments. After looking at nursing school options, he realized Columbia College of Nursing (CCON) was the best fit for him — especially because of the small class sizes and strong faculty.

While at CCON, Lauren successfully balances a rigorous academic program, community involvement, and service as the Student Nursing Association (SNA) president. Through his leadership, the student group completed numerous fundraisers, drives, and volunteer experiences. For example, Lauren led a clothing drive that donated over 150 new pairs of socks and undergarments to homeless veterans, a food drive that prepared 109 sandwiches for a homeless shelter in Milwaukee, and an arts and crafts drive that provided over 200 items to an urban child care center. His enthusiasm for the work he does attracted other students to the SNA, resulting in a 30 percent increase in student membership.



Lauren Boguslawske

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Teamed with other student innovators, she created and launched a business (Mobile Oxygen Solutions), even writing a proposal for a six-figure grant. Although her team was not awarded the grant, Katie said the process was incredible.

Katie's ability to follow her dream and develop her first business idea would have been next-to-impossible without help from the Wisconsin Grant and other sources of financial aid. Carpooling helped to limit expenses, but the significant time commitment required her to sacrifice paid employment for the duration of the program.

"I'm all on my own, supporting myself," she says. "This grant helped me stay at Carthage and The Commons, where I get to develop skills that will help me advance."

Katie's long-term entrepreneurial goals remain firmly in place, but her work also solidified an interest in digital communications. She recently made it through a three-step interview process to obtain a yearlong internship at Baird, an employee-owned financial services firm headquartered in downtown Milwaukee.

Katie's initial projects have included competitive intelligence reports and demo websites for Baird advisors. She has found the company to be extremely open to forward-thinking ideas.

Co-founder of the new Innovation Club at Carthage, Katie will serve as its president this coming year. She credits Professor Jennifer Madden, an established entrepreneur who directs the college's graduate program in business design and innovation, for providing support and guidance as the student organization's faculty advisor.

Bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, the senior is eager to make that culture contagious on campus.

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To help him balance all that he does, Lauren is thankful to be receiving financial aid, including the Wisconsin Grant. "Receiving the Wisconsin Grant has enabled me to lighten, but not eliminate, my work schedule and focus on my studies and community service work," Lauren emphasized.

Lauren, now a senior student who will graduate in December 2018, is grateful to be studying at Columbia College of Nursing. Lauren explained, "CCON has given me a platform to make a difference in my community, as well as to hone my leadership skills. My education at CCON has allowed me to further develop my knowledge, skills, and abilities as a future registered nurse and forced me to acknowledge my strengths, weaknesses, and values. It has also required me to step out of my comfort zone and shoulder new challenges."

When Lauren graduates, he hopes to work on a medical surgical floor to develop a strong practice base. He then wants to become a dialysis nurse and manage a dialysis clinic. Eventually, he plans to complete a Master of Science in Nursing degree. In addition, he has political aspirations, first serving in a civic engagement or advocacy role, and eventually running for public office. Lauren notes that "Nurses are fortunate to have direct interactions with patients, putting us in an ideal position to advocate for vulnerable populations. Becoming involved in politics provides an opportunity to give a voice to underrepresented social groups."

FACT OF THE MONTH

At WAICU-member colleges and universities, 71 percent of the average financial aid package is made up of grants and scholarships that do not need to be paid back.

Source:
IPEDS 2016



Wisconsin's Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

Alverno College *Milwaukee*
Bellin College *Green Bay*
Beloit College *Beloit*
Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
Carroll University *Waukesha*
Carthage College *Kenosha*
Columbia College of Nursing *Milwaukee*
Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*

Edgewood College *Madison*
Lakeland University *Plymouth*
Lawrence University *Appleton*
Marian University *Fond du Lac*
Marquette University *Milwaukee*
Medical College of Wisconsin *Milwaukee*
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*
Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*

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