

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 56,000 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 student takes advantage of new experiences

Rising junior Alassane Guisse has made many great memories at Carthage College as a student, an athlete, and an advocate for change.

Fresh in his mind is the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin outdoor track and field championships, which Carthage hosted in May. Alassane, who competed as a hurdler, said “the whole weekend was filled with a lot of good energy.”

That positive energy continues to follow him through an abundance of new experiences. From Milwaukee, Alassane found the campus along Lake Michigan in Kenosha to be the right fit.

“I chose Carthage because it is close to home but far enough where I can experience new things,” he said. “The small class sizes allow me to really connect with my professors, the track team made me feel at home, and, of course, the lake view is beautiful.”

While taking a public speaking course taught by Carthage faculty member Jennifer Bluma, he found a passion in communications. That freshman year experience helped him to choose a public relations major.

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Alassane Guisse

Concordia graduate fulfills lifelong dream of becoming a teacher

Morgan Marnholtz is just starting her career as a teacher, but in many ways the May 2019 Concordia University Wisconsin graduate has been in training for the profession since she was a little girl.

Already in Kindergarten the eager young pupil was taking cues from her mother, who has more than three decades of tenure under her belt at a parochial school in Merrill, Wisconsin. One of Laura Manholtz's ongoing and most anticipated classroom activities continues to be “Star of the Week,” in which a rotation of students in the first grade is highlighted throughout the year. Each week, Mrs. Marnholtz gives the designated “star” the honor of performing certain classroom responsibilities and presenting a self-constructed poster focused on his or her likes and dislikes.

At 5 years old, Morgan parroted her mother's methods and made her own “star” poster. Though she misspelled most of the words, the sentiment was clear: Morgan wanted to be a teacher. Morgan held steadfast to that desire throughout her school-aged life, and this fall, she will officially step into her lifelong calling. She's accepted a position as a middle school teacher in Shawano, Wisconsin.



Morgan Marnholtz

Though it may seem that Morgan's career success was imminent from early on, she'll attest that she couldn't have done it without her Concordia education—nor the support she received over the past four years from financial aid opportunities such as the Wisconsin Grant.

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“Her overall style of teaching was awesome,” Alassane said. “The public speaking lessons in that class have transferred to almost all my other courses and life in general.”

Because of his satisfaction and success in the Communication and Digital Media Department, he encourages fellow undergraduates to follow suit.

“Others should consider this major because all of the professors in it are great and ready to help you every step of the way,” Alassane explained. “It’s a nice major for those who enjoy communications and business.”

After graduation, Alassane hopes to put his degree to work as a PR specialist, with the possibility of opening his own business later on. For now, he’s using the newly acquired skills to benefit his student organizations.

“In the Black Student Union, I am the social chair,” he said. “This has given me the opportunity to incorporate skills I learn in my public relations classes in real life.”

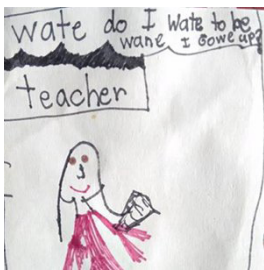
Alassane is also active in My Brother’s Keeper, a weekly leadership program for men of color. His involvement in these groups has allowed him to push for change while strengthening bonds with fellow students and community members.

“Our advisor, Roger Moreano, the director of equity and inclusion at Carthage, has taught us many valuable life lessons surrounding race and inequality,” Alassane explains. “My favorite experience with this group so far has been having breakfast at President (John) Swallow’s house to discuss our experience at Carthage so far.”

He attends Carthage with help from the Wisconsin Grant, a vital part of a financial aid package that has made all the difference for him.

“The various scholarships and grants that I have received through financial aid have opened the doors for me to many great experiences and opportunities at Carthage,” he explained. “Without the financial aid I have received, being a part of all of this would not be possible.”

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“Because of scholarships and financial support like the Wisconsin Grant, I’ve been equipped to pass along the same quality education that I received to my future students,” said Morgan. “Thus, these financial gifts not only have a positive impact on my life, but also the lives of the children I will teach.”

Morgan gives credit to several of her Concordia professors for nurturing and honing the skills she naturally gained from a young age through observation of her mother’s work. The personalized and caring approach of Concordia’s professors, combined with Morgan’s maturity, aptitude, and dedication to her studies, helped her quickly rise to the top of her class at Concordia. Her all-around talent and winning personality also extended to numerous other aspects of her life at CUW.

“Attending Concordia shaped me as an individual in ways beyond my career as an educator,” Morgan said. “I was blessed with countless opportunities to grow in mind, body, and spirit through challenging coursework, my participation on Concordia’s track and field team, and my involvement as a small-group study leader. My Concordia education has also led me to some of my most treasured friendships—individuals who will continue to support me as I enter this new chapter of my life.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

Pell Grant recipients’ chances of graduating in four years are higher at WAICU-member colleges and universities than at public universities in Wisconsin (33 vs. 20 percent).

Source: IPEDS, 2018



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*
- Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*
- Edgewood College *Madison*

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