

## About Wisconsin Grants

*The twenty-three 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 54,000 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.*

Wisconsin Achievers is published by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU):

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## Nursing student develops leadership skills at Alverno

While attending Oak Creek High School, Meghan Peters knew two things for sure: she wanted to become a nurse, and she wanted to attend Alverno College.

"I chose Alverno because of the amazing nursing program and because I knew that I would get a lot of support and help from my instructors," said Meghan, who is finishing her first year at Alverno. She was also drawn to Alverno College because of its unique curriculum, interaction with other students, and small class sizes.

However, Meghan wasn't certain that she could afford college. She feared a private school education was out of reach for her. After applying, she realized that she could get the financial help she needed. Thanks to the Wisconsin Grant and other financial aid, her dream of becoming a nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Alverno came into reach.



Meghan Peters

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## Piano performance major embraces the academic journey at Lawrence

Jonathan Bass knew he wanted to major in music in college, but he also knew he wanted a broad academic experience.

He found what he was looking for at Lawrence University, where he opted for the liberal arts college's five-year double degree program. He's pursuing a bachelor of music degree in music performance (piano) and a bachelor of arts degree.

"I've really enjoyed the journey so far," said Jonathan, who developed a passion for music while growing up in Door County. "I appreciate the wide range of opportunities that are available to me at the Lawrence Conservatory – by the end of this year I will have taken lessons in both classical and jazz piano, played in multiple chamber music settings, played in a jazz combo, sang in choir, and competed in multiple solo piano competitions."

He is currently considering a major in French, alongside piano performance. "Fluency in the language would of course give me greater facility in my study of the French piano repertoire and, at some point, I would love to do a study abroad program in France," he reported.



Jonathan Bass

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**Meghan Peters** continued from page 1

“The financial aid is very beneficial for me. Without it, I most likely wouldn’t have been able to attend Alverno, which was my number one school,” she said.

Meghan loves making new friends and has learned to “be more bold.” The Alverno College experience so far has taught her to hone her leadership skills and speak up more, both in the classroom and in other situations. Alverno also has helped her become more confident about her career goals and as an individual. Overall she really enjoys her life at Alverno, she said.

Outside of school, Meghan works at her church and is looking forward to more of her classes taking place back in the classroom. Many of her courses this past year were held virtually, and she learned that the online format isn’t for her.

“COVID impacted me a lot with school because I am not good at learning online at all. It was very difficult. I prefer to be in person,” she said.

Meghan hopes to one day become a pediatric nurse. No matter where she is five or 10 years from now, she knows that her college education will have opened doors and helped her to encourage others to pursue nursing.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

At WAICU colleges and universities, the average class size is 17 students.

Source: WAICU Institutional Survey, 2019-20

**Jonathan Bass** continued from page 1

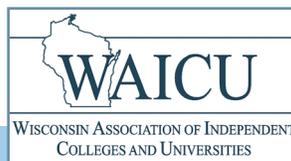
Jonathan’s journey has benefited from the financial aid he received, including being a recipient of a Wisconsin Grant.

“I think it’s fair to say that without financial distractions, I’ve been able to focus on my musical and academic interests much more effectively,” Jonathan said. “College is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the Wisconsin Grant is helping me make the most of it.”

As a high school student in search of a college, Jonathan said he was drawn to Lawrence in part because of the glowing recommendations he heard from Conservatory alumni. He also connected with a Lawrence music professor who gave him a vision of what the Lawrence experience might look like.

“I would occasionally run into alumni in Door County who would invariably praise their time at LU,” Jonathan said.

“Perhaps most importantly, I had the opportunity in October of my senior year to play in a masterclass for Professor Michael Mizrahi, who is now my teacher. I had been advised countless times to major in music, I needed to find a teacher I could work well with. Playing in that masterclass made me think, ‘I could definitely see myself studying with this professor for the next few years.’”



*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  
 Neshotah House - Neshotah  
 Northland College - Ashland  
 Ripon College - Ripon  
 St. Norbert College - De Pere  
 Viterbo University - La Crosse  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College - Milwaukee