

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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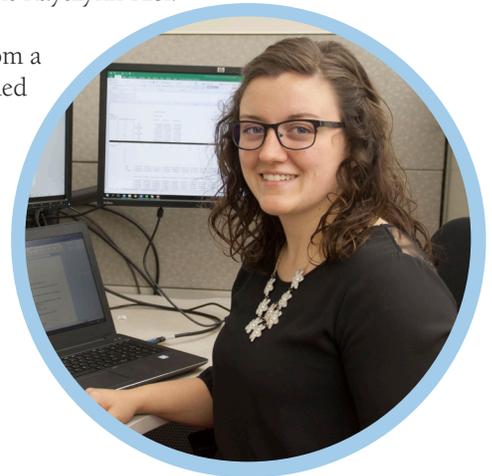
MSOE student honors her values

Family, education, and service are the values that guide Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) senior and Wisconsin Grant recipient KaytLynn Riel.

Originally from Waupun, Wisconsin, KaytLynn comes from a family of five and is the youngest of three girls. "I've learned a lot from my sisters over the years, and my parents have always encouraged me to reach for the stars," she said.

KaytLynn excelled in math and science, so it didn't take long for engineering to appear on her radar as she considered post-secondary options. Her love of people – which she identified as an important career component when she worked in the service industry part-time during high school – helped her narrow the field further to industrial engineering. "I definitely made the right choice," she said.

During her time at MSOE, KaytLynn has had three internships – allowing her to experience both the floor and the office aspects of industrial engineering. "I've come to understand that engineering isn't just about calculus or chemistry, but about being able to apply a standard process when approaching a problem," she said.



KaytLynn Riel

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SLC's Danelle Buck eclipses 1,000-point milestone

Silver Lake College senior forward Danelle Buck has reached the celebrated 1,000-point milestone twice in her basketball career.

During a December home game, the team co-captain scored a game-high 25 points, helping the SLC women's basketball squad defeat the visiting college 71-48. In the process, she eclipsed the 1,000-point milestone for her college career.

The 2014 Valders High School graduate also topped the 1,000-point benchmark during her prep basketball career. "I never imagined that this would happen in high school and college," Danelle said.

After having spent her first year of college at another institution, where she felt lost and discouraged, Danelle was able to attend Silver Lake College, thanks to the Wisconsin Grant and other financial aid. Silver Lake College allowed her to grow, personally and academically.



Danelle Buck

"I have been blessed with numerous opportunities at Silver Lake College. I have been accepted in the education program, placed in a number of internships, participated in extra-curricular activities, and have been a tutor for other students," Danelle said.

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KayLynn rounds out her education with leadership roles in two student organizations: she serves as president of MSOE service organization, Circle K, and she is the communication liaison for the industrial engineering professional organization, Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE).

Though balancing her academic commitments, internships, and extracurricular activities can be a challenge, KayLynn's repeat appearances on the Dean's list and ability to maintain a high GPA suggest it is one she is managing well. Outlook calendars, to-do lists, and mandatory nights off are all part of her strategy. "My paper schedule is my best friend," she said. "Coffee also helps keep me going."

For KayLynn, the Wisconsin Grant provided not only the financial support she needed to pursue her education, but additional motivation to succeed. "Without that generous financial aid I received from the Wisconsin Grant, I probably would not be where I am right now," she said. "So many people have supported me to get to where I am – that pushed me to put forth all of the effort that I could."

When she is not studying or working, KayLynn is enjoying her role as aunt, modeling her values for young nephews, ages 3 and 5. "I aspire to be someone they can look up to," she said. "I want them to understand how valuable an education is, where a good education can take you, and to be respectful of women in the workforce because we do amazing things."

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"If it had not been for the generosity of others, I wouldn't be where I am today. It changed my life, allowing me to find my spirit once again."

She has enjoyed a number of highlights in her college basketball career during the past few years, including being named USCAA First-Team All American as a junior. Danelle also considers herself to be fortunate to have competed in the USCAA National Championships the past two years. "The fact that I am able to play college basketball is a blessing in itself," she said. "But making it to the national tournament two consecutive years is beyond anything I would have ever foreseen."

Another highlight had romantic overtones. Five days after Valentine's Day in 2017, she and SLC men's basketball player Tommy Bentley (now an assistant coach for the men's team) got engaged on the basketball court in front of fans of both teams. Tommy got down on one knee and proposed to Danelle after a men's home game. Danelle smiled, responded affirmatively, and hugged Tommy as the crowd cheered. "It was the most incredible and memorable moment," she recalled. They plan to marry some time in 2020, but first they want to finish college, find jobs and settle on an area to call home.

Danelle, who plans to graduate in December 2018, is double-majoring in early childhood and elementary education, and minoring in math. She would like to work with students but hasn't decided if that will be through classroom teaching or in a different capacity. Danelle also would love to coach basketball, just not right away.

"If I start coaching right after college, I'm not sure if I could be happy staying on the sidelines," she said with a laugh.



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

FACT OF THE MONTH

86 percent of grant aid to students at WAICU members is raised from private sources.

Source: IPEDS, 2017