

Wisconsin Achievers

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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.

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

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Student-athlete leverages opportunities at Holy Family College

Julia Naze of Casco, Wisconsin knew that Holy Family College was the right college for her immediately after touring it. "The first time I visited, everyone made me feel like I was right at home, and that was something that my mom and I both really enjoyed." Julia liked the idea of small class sizes and the opportunity to get to know her professors better than she would at a larger institution. The size of the Holy Family College campus felt like a good fit right from the start.

To say that Julia is a busy student is an understatement. She has made the most of the experiences that are available to her on campus and in the community. Julia plays on the Holy Family College women's basketball, soccer, and softball teams. "One thing that college has taught me was that I am really good at handling stress and time management. Playing sports in college takes more time than it did in high school, and there is a lot of traveling," she said. "I have had to learn how to manage my time because I would have practice or work."



Julia Naze

To help pay for her expenses, Julia works about 45 hours per week in both on- and off-campus positions. Her on-campus job is in the financial aid office, where she has learned about and

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Nontraditional student finds home at Alverno College

A few years after her high school graduation, Cassandra Morales faced two big hurdles on her path to attending college.

First, she was worried about being an older student and feeling out of place or excluded from traditional students. Second, she wasn't sure she could afford it. Her parents lived paycheck to paycheck and never saved money for her to attend college. And she too had little savings.

But as she started looking into her options, she discovered two things that would help her get over those two hurdles.

Cassandra had a few close friends who had graduated from Alverno College. They all spoke highly about the college's diverse student population and the sisterhood they felt a part of. They said her slightly older age wouldn't matter. She also learned about the financial aid she would be eligible for to help her reach her goal of getting a bachelor's degree. If it weren't for her aid package, which includes a Wisconsin Grant, she wouldn't be in college – let alone graduating in December 2020 with a double major in Spanish for the professions and global studies.



Cassandra Morales

And her friends were right.

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Julia Naze continued from page 1

gained an appreciation for the behind-the-scenes work that goes into providing financial aid to students.

Julia also serves as a WAICU Wisconsin Grant Student Ambassador. In that role, she has helped organize an on-campus event to raise awareness of student financial aid and has traveled to Madison to meet with her elected officials. Advocating for student financial aid is important to Julia because she would not be able to attend college without assistance. Despite working full time and saving money, she knew she would not be able to finance her education on her own. When she received her financial aid offer from Holy Family College, which included scholarships and a Wisconsin Grant, her goal of earning a degree was within reach.

Julia is majoring in psychology and minoring in social work and family services. After graduation, she plans to continue her education at Holy Family College to earn her graduate degree in social work. She would like to one day have a career as a social worker in a hospital or school.

“My degree is going to mean everything to me,” said Julia. “I will be one of the first people in my family to have earned a college degree. The road to getting where I am today was not easy, however getting my degree will make all the work I’ve done worth it.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

In 2018, WAICU saved its members \$22,194,632 through more than 40 collaborative, cost-saving programs.

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“By being an ‘adult’ student, I never thought I would be involved as much as I am, but because of Alverno’s welcoming environment, I never feel excluded or weird by participating in the activities,” says Cassandra.

Cassandra is the president of Alverno’s chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and is member of several other student organizations, including Youth Empowered in the Struggle, the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, Super Mommies and Love Your Melon.

She also has several campus jobs. She is a lead student worker in the Alverno Admissions Office, sharing her love of Alverno and college with prospective students and their families. She is a tutor for Spanish writing and speech. And she also is a peer leader, helping new students at Alverno’s Student Orientation and Registration events.

Cassandra is exploring options for what she will do after graduation, and she knows she wants to give back to her community.

“I really want to be able to make a difference in my community and invest my time into it. I also want to work with students,” Cassandra says.

Graduate school also is in her future, she says.

“If it was not for financial aid, I would not be able to attend Alverno or any college for that matter. I wouldn’t be planning for life after graduation. I am so grateful for all of this,” she says.



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
 Holy Family College - Manitowoc
 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
 Viterbo University - La Crosse
 Wisconsin Lutheran College - Milwaukee