

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.

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Lakeland University student leads opening of on-campus store

As Lakeland University senior Sydney Pingitore prepares for a career in retail after graduation, she has an attractive resume and a wealth of real-world experience thanks to her time at Lakeland University (LU).

Sydney, a marketing major from Kenosha, WI, works as president of merchandise for Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses. She led the opening of Musko's Campus Shop, a 1,000-square-foot, on-campus store located in the Wehr Center lobby.

Her role with Launch is part of Lakeland's Cooperative Education program, a campus-wide initiative that instills an entrepreneurial mindset in LU students throughout all academic majors. The wages that Sydney earns are helping her pay for school, along with a financial aid package that includes a Wisconsin Grant.

Sydney gets hands-on experience leading all aspects of Musko's Campus Shop, which provides Lakeland University-branded merchandise to build LU pride, university connection, and Launch financial security.



Sydney Pingitore

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Stritch student prepares for the future through academic and campus experiences

Cardinal Stritch University junior Camillia Washington is the personification of an involved college student. She is president of the Black Student Union, is in her second year as a resident assistant, and makes a mean latte at The Bean, Stritch's on-campus café.

She credits her mom, Latoyia Washington, for helping her build a strong foundation from which she can learn how to balance her academic responsibilities and many activities, and stay organized.

"I am grateful for all of the opportunities at Stritch that have helped me grow," Camillia reflected. "The Wisconsin Grant has helped me tremendously by supporting my efforts to pay for school. The grant reinforces the belief that all students' have the ability to attend college."

The Milwaukee native is majoring in communications: business-to-business and social media, and minoring in criminology and police and justice systems. This interdisciplinary academic focus allows Camillia to customize her studies and prepares her to make a difference. She wants to travel the world to compare and contrast justice systems and identify solutions that will have a meaningful and lasting impact.

"As a person of color, I believe I have a responsibility to call attention to problems in the systems, especially those that affect people of color," Camillia shared. "I want to use social media as a platform for change and improvement."

She has found the perfect opportunity to further explore her interests right on the Stritch campus. Stritch serves as home to Dismas Ministry, an organization that provides prisoners across the United States with the free Catholic scripture, faith, and prayer resources they need to restore their relationship with the Catholic church and with God.



Camillia Washington

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“We have a lineup of newly designed merchandise for every Muskies fan,” says Sydney. “The new merchandise features designs created by students in a variety of colors, as well as a retro collection to celebrate our history.”

Launch was approached by Lakeland last year to open a student-run campus shop. Sydney, who has worked in retail since she was 15, was hired to lead creation of the store. As part of the research phase of creating LU’s shop, she conducted surveys of key target audiences and spoke to community professionals and independent campus shops at schools similar to Lakeland.

“The conversations I had with these professionals guided our team in the right direction and focus,” she says. “Plus, being able to visit other college shops was exciting as we brought ideas back to Launch for implementation at Lakeland.”

Along with her work, Sydney takes a full load of classes and is an all-conference award winner for Lakeland’s women’s volleyball team. Time management is a critical skill she’s learning.

“Launch is really flexible with the rest of my schedule,” she says. “I can focus on my academics and make time for work at the campus shop and play volleyball. Launch has helped me realize what I want to do with my life. The program has prepared all of us for the unknown.”

Sydney hires and supervises a crew of student employees, who do everything from opening and closing the shop, handling online orders, customer service, and inventory stocking. She was also involved in the shop’s design, which features glass walls and mobile merchandise displays, many of which were purchased from other retail stores.

“Launch empowers us to create, develop, manage, and lead business ventures, while developing us into the next generation of leaders,” says Sydney, who hopes to go to graduate school after earning her bachelor’s degree next spring. “I’m learning so many skills that have me in a great position for success.”

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Camillia recently completed her first semester as the Dismas Ministry Ambassador. In this role she is building community relationships and promoting the mission and values of the Ministry.

“Serving as an ambassador really opened my eyes to the faith-based perspective of restorative justice,” said Camillia. “I am able to show my authentic self and improve my interpersonal, writing, and verbal skills.”

Camillia has a clear vision for her future after graduating from Stritch. She wants to establish a nonprofit organization that will serve and support children of single mothers.

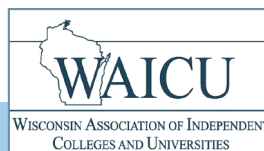
“Supporting the community within my community is very important to me,” Camillia said. “I want to provide resources for children and give them opportunities that they might not have otherwise so they ultimately develop the ability to stand on their own.”

There is no doubt that Camillia Washington will continue to use her skills and passion to make a difference for people and organizations around her. “I am not done yet,” declared Camillia. “I have so much more to learn.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

WAICU’s undergraduate student body has a larger percentage of people of color (28 percent) than four-year public institutions in the state (19 percent), while 30 percent of undergraduates qualify for federal Pell Grants, compared to 23 percent at four-year public institutions in Wisconsin.

Source: IPEDS, 2019-2020



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
- Viterbo University - La Crosse
- Wisconsin Lutheran College - Milwaukee