

## About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-three private, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 52,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The Wisconsin Grant 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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## Carroll University Junior Thankful for Her Wisconsin Grant

When Laikyn Johnson was looking for schools that offered a degree in actuarial science and took a tour at Carroll University, she immediately fell in love with the atmosphere on campus. Laikyn learned about the Wisconsin Grant through Carroll's financial aid department. Once she completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), she received \$3,800 for the entire year. She suggests everyone apply for FAFSA.

"I love mathematics and wanted to study business as well," says Laikyn. "It is a very challenging major, but I enjoy the challenge." Growing up on a hobby farm in a small town in central Wisconsin called Greenwood, Laikyn appreciates the small community feel that Carroll's intimate liberal arts curriculum provides.

"The professors are very friendly and take the time to get to know you," she says. "Once they know you personally, they can provide support and other opportunities." Laikyn was drawn to the proximity of buildings and friendliness of people on campus. She was able to meet new people, network, and eventually make lots of friends. Laikyn says that her professors are all very personable and

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**Laikyn Johnson**

## Wisconsin Lutheran College Senior Studies to Enact Change

Jenna Bednar, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) who attended Greenfield High School, dreams of becoming a school psychologist. As a psychology major who is also minoring in neuroscience and Spanish, Jenna is already taking steps to achieve her goal. She chose WLC because of the experiences and opportunities the psychology program offers. She appreciates the faith-driven educational experience and the fellowship of the WLC community.

For Jenna, earning a college degree is an opportunity to learn, grow, and discover her passions. "It gives me the imperative skills and confidence to go out in the community and make a difference in the lives of others," she says.

Over the past four years, Jenna has touched several lives at WLC and within the greater Milwaukee community. During her junior year, she received the Sharon A. Schoeneck Christian Women's Leadership Scholarship through WLC's Christian Women's Leadership Circle, which has allowed her to develop her leadership skills on and off campus. Jenna organized an autism education and service project event that educated students about autism and enabled them to create sensory activities to donate to local schools.

In addition, Jenna is enrolled in WLC's Christian Leadership Certificate Program, where she has learned from a variety of leaders and grown in her own leadership abilities. She serves on WLC's Student Institutional Review Board, which oversees research studies

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**Jenna Bednar**

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willing to make the time to help students better understand the lecture material. “I felt that I had made the right decision after freshman year,” she says.

This upcoming spring, Laikyn will have the opportunity to travel to Iceland with classmates for a cross-cultural experience (CCE). Carroll’s CCE program is a two- to four-week long, off-campus excursion that involves a semester-long course. This opportunity, which is a graduation requirement, is meant to broaden students’ worldviews and increase cultural literacy, regardless of a student’s field of study.

Laikyn was drawn to Iceland’s natural landscape and culture, and is particularly interested in the CCE course, which examines how Iceland can be more eco-friendly with its power sources. She hopes to learn how the country does this effectively and return to home with a new perspective. Now a junior, Laikyn is thinking through several different career paths. When she graduates, Laikyn hopes to work with an insurance company or credit union, helping customers understand their finances.

Laikyn says the Wisconsin Grant has lessened the financial burden going to college entails. When it comes to advice for those seeking financial assistance for higher education, she recommends that students apply for FAFSA, even if they are unsure if they qualify. “It might surprise you,” said Laikyn. “If you are looking for options to help pay for school, even outside of the FAFSA, reach out to financial aid counselors and look for scholarships. It is worth your time and effort.”

**Jenna Bednar** continued from page 1

to ensure that the rights and welfare of participants are protected. She is also a member of the International Honor Society in Psychology. Outside of WLC, Jenna works as an Advanced Registered Behavior Technician engaging in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with children with autism.

Jenna credits the financial assistance she has received from the Wisconsin Grant and other sources for much of her personal growth and educational success. “Receiving the Wisconsin Grant has greatly enhanced my college experience by allowing me to explore various opportunities outside of work,” she explains.

Jenna was able to gain experience in the field of psychology through two internship opportunities, one at STRONG Day Treatment Center and the other at the Medical College of Wisconsin. “I could devote more time to developing service projects to impact children with special needs and to create a community of acceptance, all while enhancing my leadership skills,” she said. “These internships and service projects allowed me to grow my burning passion for advocating for, and supporting, those in need. I am extremely grateful for the Wisconsin Grant because I know I would not have had the ability to pursue these internships without it.”

After graduation, Jenna plans to attend graduate school to earn a master’s in Education and an Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree so she may pursue her dream of becoming a school psychologist.



*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

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

**WAICU members' undergraduate student body has a larger percentage of people of color (30 percent) than four-year public institutions in the state (19 percent).**

Source: IPEDS, 12-month Enrollment Survey, 2020-2021