

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.

Wisconsin Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608.256.7761; mail@waicu.org.

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Marquette student aims to make a difference in affordable housing

Nigel Williams was born in Chicago, raised in Milwaukee, but his goals expand far beyond these two cities.

Nigel is pursuing degrees in accounting and real estate from Marquette University. His decision to choose real estate as a major grew from the society and environment in which he was raised.

“Seeing abandoned and foreclosed houses in my community . . . a neighbor pushed me to learn more about what was going on . . . It is a goal of mine to make more affordable homes available in cities across the United States,” he said.

He chose to pursue a second degree in accounting because of the challenge it presented. Nigel saw it as one of the most difficult majors in Marquette’s College of Business Administration, but it was his love for numbers and the help of a professor in an introductory course that pushed him to take the challenge head on.

When he first began to pursue higher education, he didn’t see Marquette as a real possibility. However, the scholarships and grants he received from the university made it affordable. “The financial support was very helpful,” he said. “The school is located in the heart of what I wanted to do, which is helping the inner cities across the world and decreasing the poverty rate.”

continued on page 2



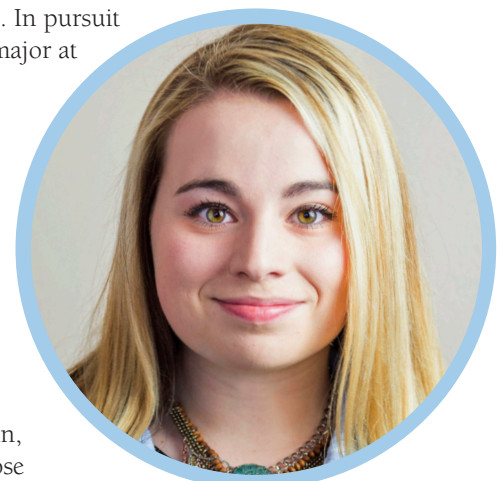
Nigel Williams

Double majors combine passions for Mount Mary student

Alexandria Kline had always dreamed of going to college. In pursuit of making her dream a reality, she is currently a double major at Mount Mary University.

She began studying “fashion merchandise management.” After taking a few English core classes and being introduced to the “English–Writing for New Media” program, she realized that she could use new media to complement her fashion major. Combining her passions for creativity, writing, and fashion, Alexandria is gaining the practical and technical skills necessary to enter a career as a media specialist.

Alexandria was born and raised in Luxemburg, Wisconsin, a small town located near Green Bay, Wisconsin. She chose Mount Mary for its size and the individual attention the university provides its students. The transition from a small farm town to the bigger city of Milwaukee has been smooth thanks to the positive reinforcement and caring environment at Mount Mary. In addition to providing a welcoming atmosphere, Mount Mary also offers a variety of degree programs that matched Alexandria’s interests and talents.



Alexandria Kline

continued on page 2

Nigel Williams continued from page 1

His favorite memory at Marquette was the first day he arrived on campus. When he first stepped on campus as a college student, Marquette seemed so big and daunting, and he thought it might be hard to navigate. But reflecting back on that first day, the journey that seemed so long and the hurdles that seemed too high were easily conquered. He found the campus was not so big after all, and it is filled with opportunities to tackle head on.

Nigel will begin his first internship this summer at Ernst & Young, one of the largest accounting firms in Milwaukee. At Ernst & Young, he will take part in the Launch Internship Program, which will require him to rotate through different teams within the company. This internship will allow Nigel to dive into public accounting and understand his options.

The Wisconsin Grant gave Nigel the opportunity to afford college and opened the door to higher education and learning. Without this grant, many of the opportunities he has taken on would not have been made a reality. The grant helped Nigel get to where he is today.

After graduation, Nigel plans to start working and saving for his future. "I want to eventually buy some apartment buildings and housing complexes to offer up more affordable housing options to low-income communities," he said.

FACT OF THE MONTH

The average class size at WAICU-member colleges and universities is 16 students.

Source:
IPEDS 2016

Alexandria Kline continued from page 1

Affordability also played an important role in her college selection. "After visiting Mount Mary University, it was easily my number one pick. The Wisconsin Grant and other financial aid allowed me to attend the school of my choosing," Alexandria said. "Without this support, going to college would not have been possible."

In addition to learning within the classroom, Alexandria has gained exciting field experience that will transfer into her future career. She worked on the media coverage of the university's annual fashion show, CREO, providing writing, reporting, and social media management; she was translating into real-world knowledge that will follow her into her future.

Alexandria has become skilled at managing her time and has carried a full course load while holding student worker positions and a part-time job in order to pay for college. She started as an intern in the university's marketing department, providing reporting and social media management around key university events. She has since been hired as a student worker in the department.

"Alexandria has provided a valuable contribution to our marketing efforts," said Mount Mary University Director of Marketing and Communications Kathy Van Zeeland. "She has a talent and a passion for marketing that will make her a strong candidate within her chosen profession."

After Alexandria graduates from Mount Mary University, she plans to work for a corporate retailer or magazine headquarters as a digital media specialist. With the help of the Wisconsin Grant, she's been able to attend college and is that much closer to making her dream a reality.



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