

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.

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St. Norbert senior prepares for medical school

Mehakupinder Chahal can see the finish line. The St. Norbert College senior will graduate in May with a biology degree and a minor in economics, and with his sights set on helping others.

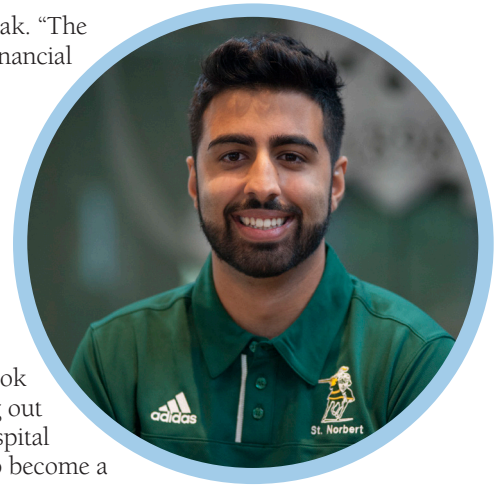
The Wisconsin Grant has gone a long way in helping Mehak. “The Wisconsin Grant is important to me not only due to the financial backing which provides me the opportunity to attend St. Norbert, but the ability to become more well-rounded through education, leadership, and work experience,” said Mehak.

Mehak, a member of the Honors Program at St. Norbert College, has found his calling: neuroscience. He has conducted extensive research on the effects of stress on Australian Zebra Finch, a species of small birds.

“My plans after college are to go on to medical school. I took the medical college exam last summer and will be sending out my applications in June. Until then, I am working in a hospital to get even more experience in the medical field. I hope to become a neurologist and use my neuroscience research to better the lives of my patients.”

Mehak is a graduate of Random Lake High School in Random Lake, Wisconsin, a place where everyone knows your name. “My graduating class was around

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Mehakupinder Chahal

Business student enjoys tight-knit community at Alverno College

Hailey McLain knew she wanted to attend a small private college after high school. Growing up in Wautoma, Wisconsin, a town of about 2,200 people, she knew that large lecture halls with hundreds of students wouldn't help her learn to her full potential.

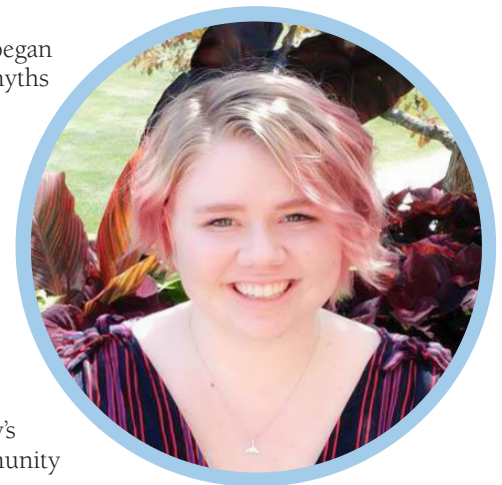
But financial aid also was a large concern for her as she began her college search, and she feared – due to widespread myths – that a private college education was out of reach.

However, Hailey learned that her strong academic record in high school, lots of long hours working to save money, and financial aid, including the Wisconsin Grant, would make it possible for her to attend Alverno College in Milwaukee and put a four-year degree in reach. Alverno's ability-based curriculum and assessment-as-learning methods are part of a unique approach to higher education that requires each student to demonstrate the skills of her chosen field while perfecting the professional traits today's employers are seeking. Alverno offers a close-knit community with big-city access.

“I got chills when I stepped on campus. I knew this is where I wanted to be,” Hailey said. “I'm glad that I am able to make it work.”

As a sophomore, Hailey is excited to take more courses in her business major. At Alverno, business class sizes are typically 10-20 students, so students have

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Hailey McLain

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50-some students, so I am used to an environment where people know each other and look out for one another,” said Mehak.

St. Norbert College is exactly that, plus a few thousand people. That’s one of the main reasons why Mehak decided to enroll at St. Norbert. It didn’t hurt that the college had just opened a new state-of-the-art science center.

“Between feeling like I was a part of a community and the \$40 million brand-new Gehl-Mulva Science Center, St. Norbert had won my heart. It was the best decision I ever made,” said Mehak.

Mehak has taken advantage of his opportunities at St. Norbert. He has been a part of student government all four years. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity, which is home to many famous people – including Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rodgers who was inducted into the Sigma Xi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon at St. Norbert College in 2012.

Mehak is also a student ambassador at St. Norbert, which entails giving tours of the college to prospective students and sharing his experiences along the way. He also volunteers for the Boys and Girls Club.

“St. Norbert gives students the opportunity to experience the richness of college life, pursue their dreams and expand their knowledge of the world,” Mehak says.

Mehakupinder Chahal left Random Lake with his eyes wide open. He’ll leave St. Norbert with a passion for helping others.

“I will always remember the connections I made at St. Norbert. I may not always remember exactly which genus sharks belong to, but I will always remember the amazing experiences my friends and I have had.”

Hailey McLain continued from page 1

the opportunity to work one-to-one with instructors and develop relationships that last long after graduation. Hailey is exploring the possibility of a career in human resources or adult education, which is her minor.

When she is not studying, Hailey is involved in four different clubs on campus, including the Gay Straight Alliance and Alverno Business Leaders Empowered or ABLE. She also worked with the director of counseling and health services on an outreach program to new students to help with the transition to college and any stress and anxiety all students may experience.

As a junior counselor in the Admissions Office, Hailey’s leadership skills have made her a valuable asset to the director of admissions, who has put Hailey in charge of organizing overnight visits for prospective students. Hailey also serves as a peer leader for incoming students during orientation.

When she graduates, Hailey will be the first one in her family to have a bachelor’s degree, and she hopes her example will be followed by her two younger siblings.

“I know I’m where I need to be and on the path that will prepare me for life after college. I hope to stay in the Milwaukee area. . . who knows where the future will take me,” Hailey said.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Twenty-seven percent of all WAICU students are first-generation students.

Source:
WAICU Institutional Survey, 2017

*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*
Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
Viterbo University *La Crosse*
Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*