

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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Alverno senior committed to helping others navigate student financial aid

With a full-time job already lined up after graduation, America Rosete is excited to begin what she believes is her life purpose – helping people in the Hispanic community navigate the complicated world of financial aid. “There’s a lack of bilingual materials. I want to help people understand the materials and the process and help them get all the financial aid they deserve.”

As a senior graduating in May 2022 with a double major in Business & Management and Spanish for the Professions, America understands how important financial aid can be. That includes the Wisconsin Grant, without which America says her Alverno education may not be possible. “I would most likely be in a two-year program if I was even able to attend college at all,” she says. “The grant means I don’t have to worry and can focus on my studies and work.”



America Rosete

The Milwaukee native was drawn to Alverno for a number of reasons, but the biggest factor is a mission focused on empowering women. America has two cousins who attended Alverno, and when she saw how their education transformed

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Cedar Grove native pursues military career at Concordia

For a young Jordan Sells, there was no greater anticipation growing up than a weekend fishing excursion spent with Uncle Joe and other family members. Now a freshman at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), Jordan still remembers the trips with fondness. Uncle Joe would charter a fishing boat, load up the tackle boxes, poles, and bait, and navigate to the open waters of Lake Michigan. There, the fishermen would pass away the hours by casting and chatting about Uncle Joe’s days in the Naval Academy and his career as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Uncle Joe was one of many family members – three generations’ worth, in fact – who instilled in Jordan a reverence for military leadership.

So when it came time for the Cedar Grove native to decide on a path after high school, there was no hesitation: Jordan, too, wanted to become a military officer.

Jordan has received a three-year Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship in order to earn a business administration degree at CUW while preparing to become an officer in the U.S. Army. Even with the generous scholarship, however, he still depends on the Wisconsin Grant to make his desire to attend Concordia a reality.



Jordan Sells

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them, she knew this was the place for her. “I used to be very timid and shy, but now my communication skills have improved, I have the opportunity to make connections with new people and my confidence has grown.”

America, a first-generation student, has embraced her college experience. She is the vice president of the Alverno chapter of Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, a member of Voces Unidas de Alverno and Alverno Business Leaders Empower, a group that brings students together to learn leadership, business and financial skills. She’s also a member of Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES), which promotes activism and empowerment in marginalized communities. Through each of these experiences, she’s honed her communication and presentation skills and made lasting friendships.

The sense of community has been a highlight of her Alverno experience. “I love how united Alverno makes everyone feel. It doesn’t matter where you come from or what language you speak, we’re all here to empower each other.”

Now, with graduation on the horizon, America is looking forward to working as the operations manager in Alverno’s financial aid office. “Alverno has given me the mindset that I need to do everything to the best of my ability, to find ways to do things better. I’ve also learned to connect with people from different backgrounds, understand them and communicate with them in a way that’s respectful.” With those skills, as well as her passion for helping others, America is poised to support students just like her through the financial aid process.

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“My family doesn’t have the money to support me fully through college,” says Jordan. “It’s always been my responsibility to find a way to earn some money if I needed it. Phone bills, car insurance – if I want something, then I have to find a way to fund it.”

Jordan has shown tremendous capacity as he hustles to earn his keep while maintaining excellence in all walks of life. In high school, for example, he began a landscaping business and even brought on enough clients to hire three of his high school friends while still maintaining his status as an honor roll student.

Now at Concordia, his “free time” for entrepreneurial pursuits is significantly lessened. Jordan works hard to accommodate his full credit load at CUW, the rigorous ROTC travel and training regimen, and his practice and competition schedule as part of the Falcons football team. In addition, Jordan’s faith and values compel him to prioritize volunteerism. He serves regularly at his church, monthly for Milwaukee’s Morning Glory Ministries, and as a volunteer firefighter for Cedar Grove.

“I have a younger brother who is adopted and who really looks up to me,” Jordan says. “I want to be an example to him. I want to lead others with whatever I’m doing. Going to college and enlisting in the ROTC gave me the opportunity to practice being a leader in a variety of capacities so that I’ll be prepared one day to serve my country as an officer in the military.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

The average financial aid package for full-time degree-seeking undergraduates at WAICU members is 77 percent grants and scholarships which do not have to be paid back.

Source: WAICU Institutional Survey, 2020-21



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