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WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

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Lakeland Athlete, Musician, and Scholar Soon Will Be a Teacher

When future students of senior Sadie Conway need a role model for getting involved, they can simply ask their teacher about her time at Lakeland University (LU).



Sadie Conway

"The Wisconsin Grant is very important to me because I was able to come to a school with high expectations and not worry a lot about finances so I could focus on all the great opportunities."

The Monroe native has maximized her Lakeland experience, putting together an impressive resume of academic achievement and involvement.

Sadie was recruited to Lakeland by the basketball staff, but that was just the start. She is a member of the women's basketball and tennis teams, serves on Lakeland's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and is a member of

the symphonic and jazz bands.

"I loved doing everything before getting to college and I thought why stop doing it now when Lakeland gave me the opportunity to keep doing what I love," says Sadie, an elementary/ middle school education major.

"My motivation to do both sports and music was getting to expand my circle. I wanted to get to know everyone and not just be known as a basketball player. I also have such a passion for both activities and could not pick one or the other, so I found a way to do both."

Sadie, who is a finalist for Lakeland's prestigious Clarence H. Koehler Award, attends Lakeland thanks to a financial aid package that includes the Wisconsin Grant Program. "It's very important to me because I was able to come to a school with high expectations and not worry a lot about finances so I could focus on all the great opportunities," explains Sadie.

She is preparing for her own classroom by student

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Marquette University Junior is Fulfilling an 'Imagined Dream'

Junior Bianey Calixto-Dominguez knows how fortunate she is to attend college — she's a first-generation student with her eyes focused firmly on the future.

"I have this phrase called 'imagined-dream,'" Bianey says. "It's for my parents and my family because only in their wildest dreams could a Marquette education be possible. Even when my grandpa talks to my sister and I, he just can't believe we would have this opportunity. So, it's like fulfilling an imagined dream."

The Milwaukee native and information systems and supply chain management major in the College of Business Administration admits that none of it would have been possible without the financial support of the Wisconsin Grant Program.

"I just have to thank God, because if God hadn't opened the door for me to be a Wisconsin Grant recipient, I wouldn't have



Bianey Calixto-Dominguez

"The Wisconsin Grant relieves a lot of stress from my family. This will help provide more security for the future and a more stable day-to-day life."

been fortunate enough to be here," Bianey says. "It relieves a lot of stress from my family. This will help provide more security for the future and a more stable day-to-day life."

For the past three years, the 21-year-old has worked as an IT analyst intern at St. Augustine Preparatory Academy, a non-denominational Christian K4-12

school in Milwaukee. That internship has evolved into a part-time job in the exact field she wants to work in after graduation.

"After graduation, I plan to stay there for a bit," Bianey says. "We're currently growing as a school, and they just purchased the new campus, so there's a lot of

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The Wisconsin Grant Program

The twenty-two private, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 51,000 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 the Wisconsin Grant Program has made a significant difference.

Sadie Conway

teaching this semester, initially in fifth grade and later in seventh grade math. The student teaching is a capstone to a variety of other experiences which will benefit her as a classroom teacher.

She provides emotional and social support as a caregiver for a 10-year-old with Dravet syndrome through Respite Care. She has been a lunchtime supervisor at a local elementary school, a STEM program instructor for Lakeland's Elementastic program and an assistant teacher for Cuddle Bugs Child Care.

Sadie will have earned 11 academic credits through Lakeland's Cooperative Education program, which allows LU students to apply classroom knowledge to full- and part-time real-world situations and enhance their skills and competencies beyond the traditional academic setting.

"Lakeland has been a perfect fit for me because they always found opportunities for me which has helped me in the long run," says Sadie, a three-time Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference Scholar-Athlete Award winner. "I had to learn how to prioritize my time. I have so many more connections in the area now where it feels like home."

As she enters the job market, Sadie is eager to create opportunities for others like the ones that she has enjoyed.

"I want to keep teaching the next generation and eventually become a mentor to repay all my mentors and coaches for everything they have done," Sadie adds.

Bianey Calixto-Dominguez

work to be done. That's exciting and I'm looking forward to that."

For now, as the first in her family to attend college, she will continue to inspire those who have the same educational aspirations. Although many look to her for encouragement, she says that she draws strength from her family, especially her younger sister.

"I always feel like my little sister inspires me," Bianey explains. "But I do feel happy to be the first one to go to college because now I can help guide my sister through the application process, and hopefully, she'll have a better experience for it. It's just meaningful to help others the way I needed help."

FACT OF THE MONTH

The average financial aid package at WAICU-member schools is 79 percent grants and scholarships, aid that does not have to be paid back.

Source: WAICU Institutional Survey, 2022-2023.