

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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Meet the 'Science Sisters'

Friends encourage one another through thick and thin (and organic chemistry)

The biology seniors who call themselves the "Science Sisters" at Mount Mary University are building something important in themselves and in one another. They are building a bond that will have personal and professional impact long after graduation.

Chaunsi Amey, Erica Marion, and Termeria Taper say they have weathered the ups and downs of college together. These three and one other Mount Mary biology student comprise the Science Sisters.

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Chaunsi Amey



Erica Marion



Termeria Taper

First-generation MIAD student immerses himself in college experience

For Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) first-year student Dylan Haertl, learning isn't confined to 8 – 5 o'clock, Monday through Friday. It permeates his everyday life.

"MIAD as a college and as an art studio keeps me coming back and thinking about it all day," says Dylan. "I can use what I have learned outside of classes to improve my way of living."

One way the Milwaukee native integrates learning into his day-to-day experiences is by utilizing his field book. As part of MIAD's reinvigorated First-Year Experience curriculum, all first-year students receive a field book in which to reflect on their coursework. Dylan uses his for both writing and sketching when he thinks of designs for class projects. Students are encouraged to carry them everywhere, so he can use it whenever the inspiration strikes.

As a Communication (Graphic) Design major, Dylan hopes to turn a degree from MIAD – one of Graphic Design USA's 2017 Top Graphic Design schools – into a job at an advertising or marketing firm, designing logos and other projects for companies.

"I really like the idea of creating logos and advertising products for the purpose of getting a message across," he says. Messaging isn't just important in the advertising world, Dylan knows. As a first-generation college student, he believes his success could also send an important message



Dylan Haertl

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Chaunsi, Erica, and Termeria are recipients of the Wisconsin Grant, the state’s need-based aid program for Wisconsin students attending Wisconsin colleges and universities. The Wisconsin Grant funding, combined with other sources of financial aid, played a role in enabling them to pursue their college education at Mount Mary, where they have established meaningful connections.

“We know each other’s strengths and weaknesses; we all want to see each other be successful,” said Erica. Coming to morning class at the end of her third shift job has been brutal, she said, and there were times that she thought of giving up.

But her sisters helped her through. They are set to graduate in May. Along the way they have encouraged one another to apply for research-based internships and shouldered through classes like organic chemistry and genetics.

While this friendship arose spontaneously, there is growing evidence nationally that team building within students’ professional discipline results in greater success in retention and completion rates, particularly among minority students.

“Being together motivates and unifies us more,” said Erica. “We hold each other together.”

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to those closest to him – that they too can achieve success at the college level.

“I see myself as being a role model for future generations in my family as to how important a degree is. A college degree is essential to getting a good job in this age.”

Financial aid made it possible for Dylan to enroll at MIAD, a college he wanted to attend ever since MIAD did a collaborative Future Designers project with his high school’s art department. MIAD representatives led the project and invited Dylan and his Ronald Reagan High School art classmates to present the result on campus. The students then took tours and received more information about the college, helping Dylan to realize that MIAD was the place for him. Grants, scholarships, and other financial aid made it a reality.

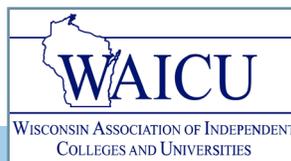
“Without aid, it would have been really hard to have the weight and burden of coming to college knowing I may not be able to afford it,” he says. Receiving the Wisconsin Grant and other financial assistance keeps Dylan’s mind on ideas and designs instead of worries.

“It makes me less worried about the financial struggles and obstacles I will have to face after leaving college and helps me to focus on my work now,” he says. “MIAD in a sense has opened my eyes and changed my way of living.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

In 1991, bachelor’s degree holders captured 40% of the well-paying jobs. In 2015, four-year degree holders captured a majority (55%) of the well-paying jobs, an increase in share of over 35%.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 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*
 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*
 Neshotah House *Neshotah*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*