

Wisconsin Achievers

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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 52,000 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 by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU).
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Viterbo student Brianne Roy continues family tradition in nursing

Viterbo University nursing student Brianne Roy is continuing a proud family tradition.

"My mother and grandmother were both nurses, and I grew up around their stories of providing care," said Brianne, a junior from Plymouth. "I always felt drawn to the profession. They are two of the main role models in my life."

Three years into her college education, Brianne is certain she made the right choice, both in terms of her major and the university she chose to attend.

"Viterbo offers direct admission into the nursing program, which was one of the biggest factors in enrolling at the university," she said. "I've been very happy with my experience. The small class sizes and the hands-on education fit very well with my learning style. Plus, the location is perfect for me, and everyone is very nice."

Viterbo offers students premiere nursing facilities, including four state-of-the-art simulations labs. The School of Nursing also stresses compassionate and patient-centered care throughout its curriculum, which Brianne appreciates. Nursing clinical experiences have been a favorite part of Brianne's education so far.

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Brianne Roy

Navy veteran shifts "seamlessly" into life as an undergrad at Lawrence

Luther Abel '22 came to Lawrence University two years ago following a six-year stint in the U.S. Navy.

"I walked off the ship for the last time three days before starting classes at Lawrence and was able to begin my studies seamlessly," he said as he prepares to begin his third year at Lawrence.

Luther, of Sheboygan, said the Wisconsin Grant he received has provided financial support that has allowed him to focus on his studies. An English major, he also has had the opportunity to extend his learning beyond the classroom, by joining the staff of The Lawrentian, the student newspaper.

"The Wisconsin Grant has allowed me to concentrate on writing and going about my studies," he said. Luther does work, however. "I've done some work as an assembler at a manufacturing plant, driven the bus for Lawrence, and other odd jobs. I'm extremely grateful to the State of Wisconsin, who funds the grant, and I want everyone to know I'm holding up my end of the bargain with a 3.78 GPA and a back-to-back Dean's List distinction."

Luther aspires to write about politics and gained experience in the field with a summer internship. He was drawn to Lawrence for opportunities to engage in authentic and open

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Luther Abel

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"I love getting out and working with practicing nurses in different health care settings," Brianne said. "It allows me to take what I've learned in the classroom and labs and use it in a real-life setting."

As is the case for most students, grants and scholarships are critical in allowing Brianne to realize her education and career goals. Brianne works as a campus tour guide and at the Masters Gallery Foods cheese plant in Plymouth during every academic break, a job she has had since high school.

"I can definitely say that I would not have been able to afford college without the Wisconsin Grant and other financial aid," she said.

Outside of work and academics, Brianne enjoys embroidery, basket weaving, other crafts, and going for walks in the outdoors. She is exploring career options, including nurse anesthetist, radiology, or possibly medical school.

"I really love learning new things, and that's something I want to do all my life," she said. "And these fields are fascinating to me."

Whatever path Brianne chooses, Viterbo nursing faculty member Kristin Roslansky is confident she will be very successful and that her patients will benefit the most.

"Brianne warmed hearts by her soft grace and high respect she demonstrated with her patients, nursing staff, and co-students," Roslansky said. "She was consistently positive in all her interactions with an infectious smile and a desire to learn the intricacies of holistic care. She exuded confidence, even when she did not feel this way, allowing others to feel secure in her care. It was a joy to watch her grow on her nursing journey."

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conversations with people of various viewpoints.

"I wanted to attend a [university] where I could disagree with my classmates on politics; the discussion-based approach at LU makes for engaging and exciting classes," he said.

With The Lawrentian not publishing during Spring Term due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Luther joined with fellow Lawrence student Fariba Lale '22 to host a Lawrentian podcast. It was an extension of the newspaper's plan to have Abel and Lale partner in commentary on issues of significance in the 2020 presidential election.

"The Lawrentian has been great fun," Luther said. "I applied to the paper because I figured it would help develop my writing. . . The podcast came to me as a way to have The Lawrentian continue even if the print publication was, for the time, on ice during the pandemic. Fariba and I host it and review news from the [university] and what else is going on in the world. She and I will be covering the election in the pages of The Lawrentian come fall; she will cover it from one political perspective and I from another."



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

FACT OF THE MONTH

WAICU has a larger percentage of minorities in its undergraduate student body (26 percent) than four-year public institutions in Wisconsin (18 percent).

Source: IPEDS, 2018