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WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

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Bellin Freshman Pursues Path to Become a Sonographer

Mayce Cornelius, a 2023 Weyauwega-Fremont High School graduate, has always dreamed of a career that



Mayce Cornelius

“Receiving the Wisconsin Grant is something that I am extremely grateful for. Because of the grant, I am able to pay less of my tuition out of pocket.”

combines her interests with her love for helping her community. She found that combination in the Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Bellin College and is already making strides toward her goals.

Diagnostic medical sonographers play a significant role in the health care world. Sonographers specialize in using imaging

equipment and sound waves to form images of various parts of the body, known as ultrasounds. The images are then interpreted by a radiologist and used to diagnose and treat many medical conditions.

Mayce was intrigued specifically by Bellin College’s program because it also opened the opportunity for her to acquire her degree in a shorter amount of time through the three-year bachelor’s degree format. “The ability to receive my degree and start my post-grad job in three years instead of four was huge for me, as well as Bellin College’s hands on approach to learning,” said Mayce.

Bellin College is dedicated to giving students extensive hands-on and clinical experience before they enter the workforce. Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program will gain clinical, academic and laboratory training, with the opportunity to take ARDMS certification examinations before they graduate. And with a faculty-to-student ratio of

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WLC Senior Athlete Grateful for Wisconsin Grant

For Nolan Winkler, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), a college degree is the jumping-off point for his life goals. A graduate of Oak Creek High School, Nolan is majoring in Politics and Law, while playing in his fourth year as a defensive lineman on the Warriors football team.

He’s also paying for his own college education. “Without the Wisconsin Grant and other aid, I wouldn’t have the ability to attend college,” said Nolan. “I am paying for school by myself. While it isn’t easy, I can make it work with that assistance. I am blessed and truly grateful for the aid I have received.”

Nolan, who is from Oak Creek, said he chose to stay in the Milwaukee area to attend college for several reasons, including WLC’s Politics and Law program and the opportunity to continue his football



Nolan Winkler

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career. The college’s mission of Christian servant leadership also appealed to him. “I chose WLC because my values align with core principles of the college,” he explains. “WLC keeps Christ at the center of everything we do.”

He also values the camaraderie on campus. “I like the community at WLC, because everyone

has each other’s best interest in mind,” said Nolan. “Whether it is my professors, coaches, classmates, teammates, or other staff, I know that there are folks willing and able to help me when I need it. There is a true sense of belonging on campus. It feels like

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About Wisconsin Grants

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 52,000 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 Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.

Mayce Cornelius

eight to one, students in Bellin College programs receive more one-on-one time with their instructors than many other colleges.

Although Mayce is only a freshman at Bellin College, she is already immensely involved in the campus community through student-run organizations.

"I am part of a group on campus called Bellin College Impact. Bellin College Impact is a mental health group promoting a stigma-free environment regarding mental health awareness," said Mayce.

Aside from Bellin College Impact, Mayce works as a concierge at the front desk on campus and hopes to be a student ambassador next year. The student ambassador organization gives students the opportunity to work with various departments, such as admissions, advancement, and marketing.

They also assist with campus events like summer camps, campus visits, and commencement. Mayce is motivated to see where her college career takes her and credits the Wisconsin Grant as a major factor in her ability to follow her dreams at Bellin College.

"Receiving the Wisconsin Grant is something that I am extremely grateful for. Because of the grant, I can pay less of my tuition out of pocket," said Mayce, "which in turn allows me more time to focus on my studies and schoolwork!"

Nolan Winkler

family."

Nolan says that earning a college degree will mean he has completed a significant step in a long process. "My degree will carry with me the time, money, sweat, and tears for all the work I put into it and all the memories I made."

What's next? Nolan is looking forward to a future in the sports industry. "After graduation I plan to continue studying at WLC in the Sport and Recreation Management master's program, while helping with the football team. Then I hope to attend law school," said Nolan. "My goal is to work in the legal and financial sectors of the sports world. I would love to work for a football team, eventually becoming a general manager."

As he reflects on his college experience, Nolan said that what has made the greatest impact on him is quality time spent connecting with others. "A meeting with a professor or coach, a conversation over a meal, a friendly debate in the dorms or a Bible study session—those are the moments I cherish because life moves fast, and the slow, more meaningful times don't come around that often."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Twenty-nine percent of WAICU undergraduates qualify for federal Pell Grants, compared to 22 percent at four-year public institutions in Wisconsin.

Source: IPEDS, WAICU Institutional Survey, 2021-2022.