

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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122 W. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703-2723;
608.256.7761;
mail@waicu.org.

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Rebecca Larson
Senior VP for Advocacy

Aimee Biba
Communications
Coordinator, Editor

Marian University student pursues a career in service

Kayla Bender isn't your average college student. She believes that one of Marian University's core values, service, is an extremely important part of life. When most college students are focused on what classes they will take, what books they will need, and what parties they will attend – all reasonable activities on a student's agendas - Kayla focuses on serving other people. "I've been on seven mission trips all over the United States and I go on these trips to give back to communities," said Kayla.

This focus on service is a career direction that Kayla, majoring in marketing, wants to continue after graduation. "I would like to go in the AmeriCorps for a year to help people around the country. Then, I want to find a mission trip organization and work behind the scenes planning the trips and partnering with local organizations that people can serve."



Kayla Bender

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Bellin College student pursues in-demand radiation therapy education

Nevaeh Brill, a 2021 graduate from Oconto High School, always knew she wanted to have a career in healthcare. After taking the Bellin Healthcare 100 class in high school, she said it really opened her eyes to all the different avenues she could take as a healthcare professional.

"When two radiation therapists came in to talk to us during the Bellin Healthcare 100 course, I fell in love with the profession and knew right away this was something I wanted to do," Nevaeh said. Her decision to pursue radiation therapy ultimately led her to continue her education at Bellin College.

Radiation therapists are essential members of any cancer care team and work with patients daily throughout the radiation treatment process. Bellin College places a strong emphasis on hands-on learning, which is how Nevaeh says she learns best. Bellin College is also the first and only higher education institution in Wisconsin to offer an enhanced type of hands-on technology for its radiation therapy program, the VERT Simulator. With this new technology, it allows students to not only become more comfortable in the classroom, but also allows students, like Nevaeh, to become better caregivers.



Nevaeh Brill

Bellin College is dedicated to its core values of excellence, integrity, community, and caring, and prepares its students to become leaders in the healthcare profession. Bellin offers extensive clinical practice, so students feel prepared and confident when they graduate. By offering the Wisconsin Grant to students like Nevaeh, cost barriers are

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Her desire to serve is ground out of a deep personal need to help others and to volunteer. She has been volunteering by participating in Marian’s campus ministry club and Marian’s TRIO-SSS program, which has helped her become the current vice president of Circle K International, a student organization that emphasizes service, leadership, and fellowship.

Not only does Kayla volunteer with multiple organizations on campus, but she is also a member of the Marian soccer team. This opportunity has led to her choice to minor in athletic coaching; one day she hopes to serve her local community by becoming a varsity girls basketball coach.

None of this is to say that Kayla hasn’t dealt with hardships along the way. Paying for college can be expensive and a barrier for students who desire to learn skills and acquire a degree that will help them identify a career and advance their careers the way they wish. This is where the Wisconsin Grant helps. They knock down that barrier or make it short enough so students like Kayla can jump over it.

According to Kayla, “the [Wisconsin] Grant assisted me by making college affordable. If it was not for this grant, I would not have the opportunities that I have now. Also, I would not be getting the education I am receiving here at Marian University.”

The Wisconsin Grant has helped Kayla continue with her education and allows her the financial freedom to overcome the other challenges that accompany a college education. She has a unique way of dealing with hardship: “I think of where I want to be when I am 60 years old. I set goals for that far ahead, then I ask myself this, ‘What do I have to do starting now to achieve these goals?’”

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removed for young people who are passionate in pursuing professions that emphasize care and healing for our community.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts radiation therapy employment will grow by nine percent by 2028, making it a high-demand career. As the need for the profession continues to grow, the Wisconsin Grant makes it possible to help students fill the needs of an essential healthcare profession.

“I was very thankful when I received the Wisconsin Grant.” Nevaeh said. “This will help me have a starting point in reducing my college debt. I am very honored to be a recipient.”

Upon graduation, Nevaeh hopes to stay in the Green Bay area as a radiation therapist, remaining close to family and friends. She is set to graduate in the spring of 2024 and will be eligible to take the certification examination to become a licensed radiation therapist upon graduating.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Thirty-one percent of WAICU undergraduates are eligible for federal Pell Grants, compared to 24 percent at four-year public institutions in Wisconsin.

Source: IPEDS, 2018-19



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