

Wisconsin Achievers

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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 56,000 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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St. Norbert College student discovers the meaning of *communio*

It's proven that students who get involved, and actively engage with the other students and faculty and with various groups and organizations available to them while in college, thrive. Marcus Williams, a sophomore political science major at St. Norbert College, is a great example of someone who is involved and who strives to teach by word and example.

St. Norbert gives students the opportunity to experience the richness of college life, pursue their dreams, and expand their knowledge of the world. Outside the classroom, students can choose from 90 student organizations and 23 varsity sports. Marcus comes to the De Pere campus from his hometown of Waukesha, Wisconsin and is making the most of his college experience.

Marcus is in his second season with the Green Knights football program. He also is a representative in the student government association and is a member of the Black Student Union (BSU) and Men of Distinction (M.O.D.), a mentoring and support program for multicultural male students.

"I feel that my involvement on campus has made me a more rounded person and has better prepared me for the working world," said Marcus.



Marcus Williams

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Dousman native studies water, the fountain of life

Reane Loiselle of Dousman, Wisconsin was first introduced to Northland College during a backpacking trip in the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It was her sophomore year of high school, and she had been traveling with her family to the north woods. To find a college in that setting was appealing. She was also drawn to the programs at Northland, specifically water science and freshwater research. Northland is located on Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water in the world.

The Wisconsin Grant played a major factor in making her dream possible. "This financial aid is allowing me to attend Northland and participate in research that I would otherwise probably not be able to participate in," she said.

Now entering her junior year, she's majoring in natural resources and water science and has been hired as a research technician by the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation to collect data on Fish Creek, a tributary from which massive amounts of sediment flow into Lake Superior.

Northern Wisconsin has experienced three floods in the last six years — floods that caused millions of dollars in damage and resulted in federal disaster declarations. The region is seeing more frequent, intense rainfalls.



Reane Loiselle

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“Being a part of the BSU has taught me how to fight for equality and justice, and has also taught me patience. M.O.D. has taught me to be a better person, friend, and brother to those around me. It challenges me and everyone to be a better version of ourselves.”

St. Norbert College embraces the word *communio*, which is the ideal of community united as one. *Communio* is not a word that’s just tossed around on campus. Students like Marcus hear it, see it, and live it every single day.

“People like Ms. Paula (Verheyen), who remembers everyone’s names at the cafeteria and always greets us with a smile, and Father Mike (Brennan), who always listens when I have a bad day. These people and many others always try to show what *communio* means, not only by their words but by their actions.”

Marcus is a proud Wisconsin Grant recipient. In addition to the Wisconsin Grant, he receives financial support from St. Norbert College. He has earned the John F. Kennedy Scholarship, a competitive scholarship for full-time students with leadership potential, and the Multicultural Leadership Award, a merit-based scholarship that recognizes a demonstrated commitment to community service that positively impacts diversity.

Marcus plans on working with disadvantaged youth when he graduates in 2021. “I strongly believe that children are the future and they should all be awarded the opportunity to chase their dreams.”

Reane Loiselle continued from page 1

The Burke Center focuses on scientific research, communication, and thought leadership on water issues in the Great Lakes region — with an emphasis on training students. They currently employ sixteen student researchers including Reane.

For the last several years, Burke Center water scientists have been monitoring and working on projects to slow the flow of stormwater running off the landscape, as well as reduce the amount of sediment washing into Lake Superior. Reane and the small crew she works with take discharge measurements and water level measurements, downloading pressure loggers and compensators and uploading the data.

“... [these techniques] allow us to develop a way of estimating discharge for every fifteen-minute interval for every stream or tributary in the area we are currently monitoring,” she said. “That’s a pretty cool feeling.”

“Getting this kind of hands-on research experience is typically not something that many undergraduates get to have, and I think having this kind of experience in the field that I’m interested in is almost as important as what I am majoring in,” she said. “Northland is the only college where I can study water science and natural resources in such a research-based environment.”

Reane says she loves working in the rivers with the buzzing of dragonflies and damselflies or on Lake Superior surrounded by water as still as glass (some days). “If I’m honest though, some of the most satisfying moments are really when you finally see what all the data collection is creating,” she said.

FACT OF THE MONTH

The 2018 median usual weekly earnings for bachelor’s degree holders were \$1,198, compared to \$730 for high school graduates and \$553 for those with less than a high school diploma.

Source:
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



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
Holy Family College - Manitowoc
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