

## 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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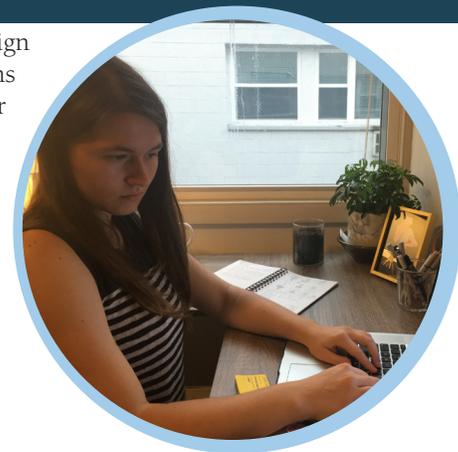
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## MIAD student pursues dream to become illustrator and business owner

Krysta Oelhafen, a senior majoring in communication design at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD), dreams about being a business owner, an illustrator, and an author of children's books.

Originally from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Krysta says she fell in love with MIAD while in high school. MIAD's close proximity to home, and its location in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward made the difference. "When first touring the campus and seeing all the art on the walls, I knew this was the place I had to be. I appreciate all the facilities that I have access to through MIAD, as they help take my craft that much further."

Receiving the Wisconsin Grant and scholarships has enabled Krysta to access a college education.



Krysta Oelhafen

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## Wisconsin Lutheran College student finds passion for service and career

Nicole Buitter, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), grew up in Waupun, Wisconsin, and attended Central Wisconsin Christian High School. As a first-generation college student, she chose WLC because of the supportive and close-knit family atmosphere on campus. Nicole appreciates how the small class sizes have allowed her to cultivate relationships with her professors and classmates and develop her leadership skills.

"Earning a college degree is about more than the courses I've taken and the grade point average I've achieved. A degree is evidence of hard work and dedication. It opens a world of opportunities and is an important stepping-stone to the life I've always dreamed of," said Nicole. "As a first-generation college student, I was unaware of the many expenses related to attending college. I have worked both on and off campus throughout my years in college to pay for my education. The Wisconsin Grant has allowed me to dedicate more hours to my studies."

Nicole's passion for studying anatomy has had a significant impact on her time at WLC. "My favorite experience at WLC has been taking an advanced anatomy course," said Nicole. "This class was a deep dive into human anatomy using cadaver dissection. The experiences in this course opened my eyes to the field of anatomy."

She also plans to continue with those studies after graduation. "I hope to attend graduate school to become a pathologists' assistant or earn a doctorate degree in clinical anatomy.



Nicole Buitter

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**Krysta Oelhafen** continued from page 1

“Over the last few years, I’ve built a community at MIAD that helped me grow both as an artist and an individual,” said Krysta. “I’m endlessly grateful for the financial support I’ve received in my education. Without it I’m certain I would be on a much different path.”

After Krysta lost her job during the pandemic, an internship with The Commons (a nonprofit civic organization) in the summer of 2020 helped her take one step forward to achieving her career dream. The internship program, which took place virtually, is a unique academic-meets-industry initiative to attract, develop, and retain the brightest entrepreneurial and innovative minds in Southeast Wisconsin. The program brings together Milwaukee-area high schools, colleges, businesses, and community organizations to build a vibrant ecosystem of the most driven talent in the region.

During the internship, Krysta worked with students from other majors and schools to develop an app. The goal of the app, *Remento*, was to help baby boomers preserve their legacies and family stories. Krysta conducted research and designed the app’s logo and branding, as well as slideshow presentations. Krysta says the biggest lessons she learned from the project were how to work as part of a collaborative team on a professional project and how the power of networking can help a student build a successful future.

The internship and her education at MIAD would not have been possible without financial aid and scholarships. “It has allowed me to pursue what I’m passionate about, and what I love about art and design,” Krysta said. She added that her scholarships and other aid have helped her overcome many financial struggles.

Krysta is poised to graduate from MIAD in Spring 2022. She said, “I’ll always think very fondly of my time at MIAD and all I accomplished in my college years, even after I’ve long established myself in the world as a professional designer and illustrator.”

**Nicole Buitter** continued from page 1

I have found a love for the field of anatomy and would like to pursue a career related to it,” said Nicole.

The supportive atmosphere at WLC made it easy for Nicole to get involved in several activities on and around campus. She is enrolled in WLC’s Christian Leadership Certificate Program. Through the program, she has volunteered at Bargains Galore Thrift Store in Waupun, helped organize Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week on campus and attended leadership-oriented events to help strengthen her leadership skills.

Nicole is quite involved in other WLC activities as well: “I am a member of the Concert Band and Flute Choir at WLC. We have been able to share our talents on campus and with local churches. I have also been a tutor for the past two years through WLC’s Student Success Center. This job has been a great way to share my love of anatomy with students currently enrolled in those courses,” she said.

Nicole concluded: “From my first campus visit to WLC, I felt the close-knit, family-like atmosphere that is present on campus. Throughout the past three years, I have been able to experience this personally.”

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

Ninety-five percent of undergraduates at WAICU-member colleges and universities receive financial aid.

Source: WAICU Institutional Survey, 2019-20



*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