

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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MIAD communication design student makes success her brand

Cera Propper, a West Bend native, was born to be a designer, even if she didn't realize it at first.

She has always been a natural storyteller and problem solver, but it was not until high school that a classmate greatly influenced her path to becoming a designer. That classmate attended the Pre-College Program at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD), a community program offering summer and weekend courses to high school youth to develop their art and design skills and prepare them for college.

When the classmate shared his experience with Cera, she says, "I knew I wanted to be there."

But a big potential stumbling block loomed for Cera: the cost of tuition. She would not be able to attend college without financial aid.

That is where the Wisconsin Grant came in. It made a college education accessible to Cera, and it gave her the confidence to start her college career off strong.

"It gave me stability and security, and now that I'm here, it's definitely worth it," she said.



Cera Propper

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Wisconsin Lutheran College student grows as a leader

Adam Pagel is one of those students who takes advantage of everything college has to offer. College goes beyond the classroom. He values every academic and co-curricular experience as an opportunity to grow as a leader.

"I feel like I have truly become a part of the WLC Warriors family," said Adam. "Being at a smaller, private college has allowed me to be and do everything."

When Adam says everything, he means everything. He is a thrower on Wisconsin Lutheran College's track and field team. As a sophomore, he joined the Warrior Events Board and became the president his junior year prior to becoming president-elect of WLC's Student Senate. He also works in the Office of Admissions and the college's Ambassador Club. His involvement goes beyond giving tours, meeting prospective students, and sharing the benefits of earning a degree from WLC. He is a part of the club's leadership team and a valued office assistant to the Admissions Visit Coordinator.



Adam Pagel

"Adam has the ability to form relationships quickly, be a flexible team player, and show his love for WLC in how he serves others. He is an integral part of the team," said Ann Poetter, admissions visit coordinator.

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Cera's three years at MIAD have seen her develop her design skills to such an extent that last February, *Graphic Design USA* magazine named her a 2019 Student to Watch.

"It's a great feeling to be acknowledged for my work and as a person," says Cera, "and it just makes me want to try new things, push myself, and get even better."

Toward that end, Cera took a course last semester called Experiential Graphic Design which focused on communication design and interior architecture and design, with the goal of creating a concept for a new restaurant. The class was a rigorous and overwhelmingly positive experience, as it sharpened Cera's design skills and required her to approach the project from a much different perspective than she was used to. It has inspired her to pursue brand and identity concepting, perhaps for exhibits and museums, post-graduation.

This summer, Cera started a yearlong internship with Baird, a prominent Milwaukee wealth management company. She has already designed advertisements, brochures, flyers, and other materials for Baird's 100th anniversary.

"I like the way it's structured," Cera says. "It gives me insight into what in-house graphic design work is like at a company versus at an agency."

None of it would have happened, she adds, without the Wisconsin Grant.

"I definitely appreciate that Wisconsin is investing in future generations," says Cera. "The less that students worry, the more they can focus on making the best work possible."

FACT OF THE MONTH

The average institutional grant (privately-raised funds) at WAICU-member colleges and universities is \$19,376 for first-time, full-time undergraduates.

Source: IPEDS 2017

Adam Pagel continued from page 1

"I learned that I love being around people, helping them through life, and helping them make decisions," said Adam. He is taking his love of nurturing others to the classroom, where he plans to be a high school math teacher and a coach for soccer and track and field teams. "The training and preparation I have received through WLC's Teacher Education program are unbeatable, and I know I will be ready when I graduate next year."

Adam first visited WLC while attending Shoreland Lutheran High School in Kenosha. He knew WLC's reputation for being a place where he could thrive academically and participate in sports and activities.

Yet, there's no question the cost of college is a challenge for many students, including Adam. "The Wisconsin Grant has allowed me to make the most of my college experience without worrying about finances and having to choose between work and studying," said Adam.

In addition to pursuing a double major in secondary education and mathematics, athletics, and his job, Adam is always eager to volunteer for campus and community outreach events. One of his favorite memories is winning the 2016 KAPCO Charitable Challenge, where his team developed and implemented a community service project to provide bicycles to those in need.

"I've learned what it means to live like a leader," said Adam. "Before coming to WLC, I didn't realize how powerful just being yourself can be. A college like WLC teaches you how to discover and use your God-given talents. My experience has been amazing. I have grown so much, and I am thankful every day for the opportunities that I have been given."



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*
 Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*