

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating nearly 60,000 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. Fully one-third of the low-income students who apply for the Wisconsin Grants are turned away in almost every year for lack of funds. Each month Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU member campuses for whom Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.

Wisconsin Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

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Wisconsin Grant recipient chooses multi-disciplinary path at MIAD

For Emma Ponath, art runs in the family, but it was her participation in the pre-college summer program at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) that solidified her decision to attend an art college. The challenging Advanced Portfolio Concepts course in the pre-college program revealed the breadth of knowledge and skills that Emma could expect to develop as a MIAD student.

What an arts education meant was not always so obvious to the West Bend native. When she was a student in high school, Emma latched on to the

arts programs, focusing her talented efforts towards frequent participation in the



Emma Ponath of West Bend is a junior at MIAD.

school's many art exhibitions. Emma held an equal love of English and math, and assumed that she if she

chose art, it would be the exclusion of other interests. "I thought that choosing between a traditional college and an arts college meant choosing between interests," Emma commented, "but MIAD showed me that an arts education is just as much about thinking as it is about making."

Emma is grateful for the Wisconsin Grant and the financial aid from MIAD. "They saw enough in me to invest in my future. Without the support of these people, I don't know where I would be right now. They are helping me to achieve my dreams

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Max Loebel of Whitefish Bay Builds Community Engagement at Lawrence

Count Max Loebel among the students who have fully embraced Lawrence University's mantra of "engagement". Max is extremely grateful for the support he has received from the Wisconsin Grant, allowing him the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of experiences offered by Lawrence and in the community.

"I initially came to Lawrence for soccer and the academic culture that seemed to be fostered here," said Max, a junior who is pursuing a major in government and Russian studies. "Once I got



Lawrence University junior Max Loebel is majoring in government and Russian studies.

here I realized there was so much more to do outside the classroom. I've had the opportunity to be involved in all these multi-faceted groups. "I'm trying to get my money's worth," he added with a laugh.

From his work in Lawrence's Volunteer and Community Service Center (VCSC) to his leadership role in a men's-focused sexual assault awareness and prevention organization, Max dedicates

each day to making a positive difference in his community.

As the office manager of the VCSC, Max connects his classmates with opportunities that maximize their interests

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and pursue a higher education, which is more valuable than any other consideration.”

Now a junior at MIAD, Emma is majoring in New Studio Practice (NSP), a newly-created major that allows students to combine the study of multiple fine arts disciplines, such as drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture, with an emphasis on professional preparation and practice. As an artist who tends to blur the lines between mediums, Emma has found the New Studio Practice to provide the perfect fit.

Outside of her studies, Emma works as an admissions office assistant, a gallery assistant and as a mentor at freshman orientation. “These positions have allowed me to really see the inner workings of MIAD as an institution

and have given me resources and networking opportunities throughout the school,” she added.

MIAD provides ongoing opportunities for students to participate in art exhibitions, where they develop event planning and project management experience. In spring 2015, Emma served as the solo curator for an exhibition at the Borg Ward, a non-profit art collective located in Milwaukee’s Walker’s Point district. The one-day, pop-up gallery included live music, free cello lessons and a market where artists could sell their work. The real-world challenges of coordinating this event helped solidify Emma’s passion for curation. As she looks forward to a career after graduation, Emma intends to focus on curation and her studio practice.



For 7 straight years, the out-of-pocket net undergraduate tuition at WAICU colleges and universities has been under \$5,500. This is just 2/3 of the average tuition/fees at the 4-year UW campuses.*

**Net tuition means price minus aid to students*

Source: 2015 WAICU Tuition Survey

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and talents. “It’s really my pleasure to set people up,” said Max, citing a student he recently arranged to tutor a local grade school student and a Lawrence dancer he introduced to the local Boys and Girls Club, who subsequently established dance lesson opportunities for low-income Appleton youth. “I love facilitating those type of relationships and seeing them come to fruition. I get excited to see Lawrentians out and about volunteering in the community.”

Raising awareness about domestic abuse and sexual assault are two issues especially important to Max, who serves as a student advocate for Lawrence’s SHARE (Sexual Harassment and Assault Resources & Education) group.

Max is also the volunteer coordinator for Sigma Phi Epsilon, where he helped organize and participated in a campus-led “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event to raise funds for an Appleton domestic abuse shelter. In this role, Max helps to coordinate educational programs and events on rape culture and sexual violence for the Lawrence community.

Most recently, Max has played a leadership role in launching MARS — Men Against Rape and Sexual assault — a campus organization inspired by the local chapter of Voices of Men that focuses on the role men can play in preventing sexual violence. He helped organize a dinner event that drew more than 350 male students to open the dialogue on the

ways that words and actions can make the campus community safer.

“I really wasn’t aware of the issue when I first came to Lawrence, but in following the national narrative last year, it made me consider what it’s like to be a woman in college and how different that experience is for them,” reflected Max on his motivation to get involved with MARS.

“Every cent helps and the fact that I’m receiving the Wisconsin Grant makes all the opportunities I have more readily accessible,” commented Max. “If I had to work a job outside of Lawrence, it would take away valuable time from contributing to student leadership.”

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*
 Columbia College of Nursing *Milwaukee*
 Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*

Edgewood College *Madison*
 Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
 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 *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

