

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-three private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 60,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, now known as Wisconsin Grants, 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 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 (formerly WTG 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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Understanding the World: Northland College Junior Making an Impact

Celeste Lourigan became interested in Northland College because of the similarities — aesthetically and philosophically — between the college and the environmental semester high school, Conserve School, where she attended her junior year.

Hailing from Oregon, Wisconsin, Celeste graduated from Edgewood High School in Madison in 2011. She is now a junior at Northland



Celeste Lourigan of Oregon, a junior at Northland College.

College and, with the help of Wisconsin Grants, is majoring in sustainable community development, with a minor in business.

With this unique plan of study, Celeste hopes to be involved with environmentally friendly projects within communities and to help spread the word about how sustainability is important for everyone.

The strong liberal arts degree that Northland offers includes essential background skills in science, writing and communication.

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Edgewood Student's Spoken Word – “It Demands to be Said Out Loud”

Jessica Arechar, born and raised in Milwaukee, has always had an ear for poetry. The English major looks forward to an eventual career in writing and journalism, but her first love – the spoken word – has been with her since at least the third grade. That passion, supported in part by Wisconsin Grants, is evident on campus.

The first literary work she remembers from her third grade class? An opus on her favorite dinner: pizza. “I



Jessica Arechar of Milwaukee, an English major at Edgewood College.

was so excited and anxious to share it with the class,” she remembers, smiling. “It ended up going really well, and I loved the experience.”

That initial thrill gave Jessica her start. By middle school, she aspired to develop the talent that songwriters enjoy. “Listening to their music made the hair on my arms stand up,”

she says. “I got goose bumps every time I played their songs.” That was the goal, and by the end of her high

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At Northland, Celeste has had the opportunity to develop herself as a leader in newspaper writing, radio editing, politics and group projects.

The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) recently recognized Celeste for her work at Northland College radio station WRNC-LPFM (97.7). Celeste and another student won third place for their broadcast on the impacts of the proposed iron mine in northwestern Wisconsin.

Celeste was also a finalist among all Wisconsin radio stations — not just college stations — for “Best Use of Audio.” For her audio recognition, Celeste created a two-minute piece about the production of an Ashland High School play, “Terror Tour” at Prentice Park in Ashland. Celeste joined WRNC as a radio music programmer and became interested in the news side of radio. She now covers stories and writes music reviews. “Getting the facts by application of the process and ethics of journalism is one way to

understand the world,” Celeste said.”

“Northland has prepared me to look at the world from many different aspects and that strengthens opportunities,” said Celeste. “It gives me the confidence to apply what interests me and my discipline to create my own experience at Northland.”

For Celeste, Wisconsin Grants, along with other financial aid, has been a critical part of paying for a college education. “Without the grants I receive I could not continue my education at Northland College,” said Celeste. “I work two jobs, but still, without that funding, I couldn’t possibly make ends meet.”

Attending and graduating from college is broadening how Celeste thinks and approaches the world around her. “With my college degree, I will eventually be able to give back to the world the opportunities it has given me.”



The private, non-profit colleges in WAICU graduate 25% of Wisconsin undergraduates, but award 28% of business, 30% of engineering, 40% of health professions, and 53% of nursing (BSN) bachelor degrees.

Source: IPEDS Data Center (2011-12 data)

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school career, she was known as “the poet” or “the writer.”

Today, she’s the driving force behind the inaugural Edgewood College Poetry Club, a group she helped to launch. Working with the Dean of Students and with a staff member at the College’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Jessica spent the summer ironing out the details and getting the club off the ground.

Jessica says a typical meeting includes poetry readings from students, followed by some sort of video of other poets

sharing and performing their work. She says the goal of the club is to give people a safe, nonjudgmental place to share their work and perform it. For some, spoken-word or “slam” poetry is a new idea, and can be a bit intimidating, just as it was for her all the way back in third grade. But thanks to her initiative and encouragement, her fellow students are catching on.

“It’s a more expressive way to share poetry,” she says. “The idea is that the poem you have just written is so strong, it demands to be said out loud. It is a very

theatrical way of speaking to get people to feel what your words are saying.”

Jessica’s college career validates the important role of creativity in a quality educational experience. The truly educated do more than memorize facts and copy techniques; they unfold the meaning of what is and contribute to the future that will be.

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*
 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*

