

WTG *Achievers*

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About WTG

The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating over 50,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of two Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.

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Mount Senario Student Counts on WTG



Heather Bird of Boyceville, a sophomore at Mount Senario College

Heather Bird has her eye on the bottom line. Heather, a twenty-year-old student who graduated in 1999 from

Boyceville High School in Boyceville, Wisconsin, notes, "During high school, I participated in Future Business Leaders of America and that is when I decided I wanted to become an accountant. I just love numbers."

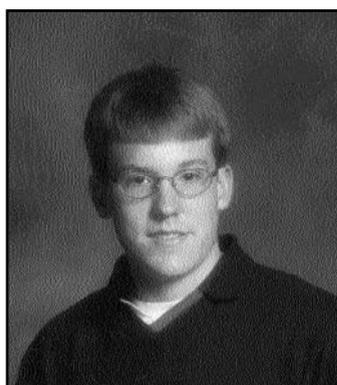
In May 2001 she will have completed requirements for an associate's degree in business at Mount Senario College, a four-year liberal arts institution in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. She will have seventy-two credits and a GPA of better than 3.0. She will return to Mount Senario in the fall to pursue a double major in business administration and

accounting. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she wants to pursue a job in the accounting field and gradually work towards becoming a Certified Public Accountant.

Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial assistance, Heather would be unable to achieve her goals. When asked how she is paying for college, she answers, "On top of the WTG, Mount Senario College has added its own scholarships and arranged student loans for me to further help me with the costs. I'm really impressed that a school

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Lawrence Sophomore Shows a Commitment to Community Service



Joe Brooks of Stanley, a sophomore at Lawrence University

Although he's only a sophomore, Lawrence University's Joe Brooks already has amassed an

impressive list of volunteer and community service activities, most of which are centered around helping kids. As the president of Lantern, the Lawrence student volunteer organization, Joe has helped coordinate a wide variety of volunteer efforts in the Appleton area, from helping sort relief supplies bound for Africa, to arranging and pricing articles for the Community Clothes Closet, to assisting in the art room at the local Boys and Girls Clubs.

In addition to his work with Lantern, Joe also volunteers as a "LARY Buddy," a mentoring

program for area children who come from socially or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. He's been active in Lawrence's campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, providing sweat equity on several building projects in the Fox Cities. And he somehow manages to squeeze in time as a Vital Tutor through Lawrence's Community Service and Volunteer Center, spending at least one hour each week tutoring an area elementary school student.

"They're mainly opportunities to interact with children," says

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HEATHER BIRD *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

will make this much of an effort to help students.”

Knowing that she has the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, some federal grants, and the institutional scholarships was a great comfort to her when her life took an unexpected turn for the worse medically. Her health is fine now, but without financial assistance, she would not have been able to continue her education due to extensive medical expenses.

Heather helps pay for her education by working approximately 15 hours each week in the school cafeteria and in the Admissions Office as a work-study student. She also participates on the dance team and the cheerleading squad, as well as in the Student Ambassadors Organization, a service group on campus.

Heather says she chose Mount Senario College

because of the great opportunities the school offers. She states, “My stepfather and aunts graduated from Mount Senario, and they are very successful. They all graduated with degrees in business and that is what first got me to take a look at the college. During my campus tour I learned that Mount Senario has exceptional programs such as criminal justice, teacher education, social work, and business. I also thought that the small class sizes as well as the one-to-one opportunities with my teachers would help me reach my full potential. This is what I was looking for.”

Heather adds, “Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid options, school would be too expensive for many students. I love being at Mount Senario, and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, along with work-study and other financial aid, has made it possible.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

First-generation college students are more successful at private colleges and universities. A study published by Howard University showed that 55% of first-generation students completed their bachelor's degree within five years at private colleges, vs. 34% at public 4-year institutions.

JOE BROOKS *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Joe of his busy out-of-classroom experiences. “Kids should have positive role models. I personally love working with children and spending time with them. I feel like I can help take them out of their normal daily routine and give them a different perspective on things. If everyone would do just a little bit, we could make such a difference.”

Joe has set his career sights on becoming either a clinical child psychologist or a secondary school administrator. “Either profession would allow me to work closely with young people,” says Joe, a graduate of Stanley-Boyd High School,

who boasts a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average while pursuing a double major in psychology and education.

When Joe first began exploring his options for college, he visited several larger schools before considering Lawrence, but left feeling unimpressed by their size and impersonal nature. “I really felt comfortable at Lawrence, and that’s what sealed the deal for me.”

Joe is one of 358 students this year whose pursuit of a Lawrence degree is being realized with the assistance of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program. The

grant is a vital part of Joe’s overall financial aid package that also includes a Lawrence grant, campus employment, and the Robert Kirtland Wolter, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

“Without the comprehensive financial aid package I’m receiving, I wouldn’t be able to attend Lawrence, that’s for sure,” said Joe. “I’m grateful for the invaluable help the Wisconsin Tuition Grant provides to my overall financial assistance. It’s providing a great opportunity for me to get a first-rate education and pursue my career ambitions at the college of my choice.”

Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities

Alverno College *Milwaukee*
 Beloit College *Beloit*
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
 Carroll College *Waukesha*
 Carthage College *Kenosha*
 Concordia University *Mequon*
 Edgewood College *Madison*

Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
 Lawrence University *Appleton*
 Marian College *Fond du Lac*
 Marquette University *Milwaukee*
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*
 Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*
 Mount Mary College *Milwaukee*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

