

About the WTG

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 (WTG) in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the low-income students who apply for the WTG are turned away every year for lack of funds. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom the WTG has made a significant difference.

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Beloit student aspires academically, athletically, musically

"In high school, I was always afraid to share who I really was and to do music," said Nate Brault of Janesville, Wisconsin. Now a junior at Beloit College, where he is a Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient, he is coming into his own.

In his second year at Beloit, the education and sociology double major met classmate Joshua Evans. With Brault rapping and Evans singing the chorus,



Nate Brault of Janesville, a junior student at Beloit College.

they created TROY&Eli, a hip-hop/rap duo that aims to break down barriers with their performances. They primarily record music at CELEB (the Center for

Entrepreneurship in Liberal Education in Beloit), and they've performed on campus and around the region at such places as the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

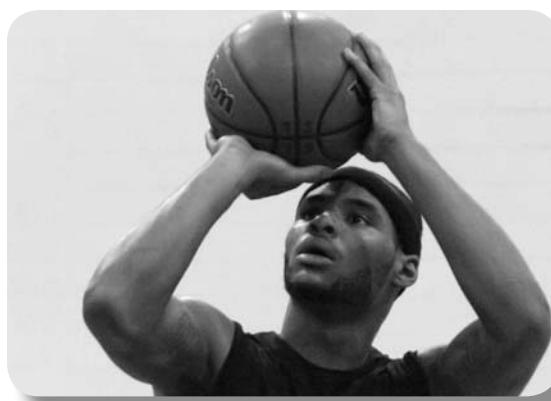
"I think the (Beloit College) community is just so supportive," Brault said. "Everyone is so tight-knit." In the fall of 2013,

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WTG helps SLC student seek excellence on and off court

Milwaukee native and freshman transfer student, Darius Barnes, came to Silver Lake College seeking both academic and athletic opportunity. Barnes is studying psychology and plans to pursue a social work or community service career after graduation.

Prior to coming to Silver Lake, Barnes says he felt "stuck" at a public university. But, at Silver Lake College, he has had many new experiences bringing him closer to his goals. His passion for



Darius Barnes of Milwaukee, a freshman transfer student at Silver Lake College.

volunteerism and community service has grown exponentially and mirrors Silver Lake's mission of compassion and community. Upon hearing from their

basketball coach about a nine-year-old boy in New York who had died trying to save his grandfather and uncle from a fire, Barnes and his teammates were moved to volunteer as pallbearers in the boy's funeral "to honor a hero."

According to

Barnes, that moment will stay with him forever.

When he reaches junior status, Barnes hopes for a

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Nate Brault

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TROY&Eli released their first mixed album on soundcloud.com, featuring songs penned by Brault. Despite facing some scrutiny from those who don't associate him with hip-hop culture, he calls writing his favorite thing to do.

"There's this quote from Maya Angelou, 'There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside of you.' And to me, that's why I write," said Brault, who estimates he's written more than 200 songs. "It's my therapy; it's my form of expression. And it's something that I enjoy sharing with people." He likens what he does with his music to the concept of Beloit's signature "liberal arts in practice" curriculum.

"It boils down to expanding what you thought you knew and being open to different perspectives and trying to apply them to different social and professional groups," Brault

said. "To me, it means going outside of the box. I think that's kind of what we're doing in our craft. We're taking risks; we're trying to be original." Besides finding his voice musically, Brault—who is a wide receiver on the Buccaneers football team—has also found his confidence.

"I just came into college so happy about everything, but everything I cared about I now know was trivial," Brault said. "I had my eyes opened to things that really matter.... Now, I like to take stances on issues I find important and things that I never would have even considered in high school."

"And I think the main thing is just advocating for people to express who they really are," he added. "You gain so much perspective, and it's all attributed to this small campus and the teachers who care about you—it's amazing."

Darius Barnes

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youth development internship. He wants to work with children, helping youth who are "not on the right path." In Milwaukee, he worked for four years in an after-school program at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, a nonprofit organization that works to build a safer, stronger neighborhood for its residents. Barnes eventually became the after-school program team leader, helping children with homework and engaging them through structured learning activities.

Barnes is grateful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant because it helps him pay for

school, which allows him to focus more on his studies. At Silver Lake, Barnes helps his fellow students by participating in study tables for athletes. SLC athletes spend time each week at 'study tables' where they are mentored by coaches and help each other study and complete homework assignments. The time Barnes spends at the tables is highly focused and very helpful to student athletes. Barnes notes that his commitment to and discipline in doing his academic work also translates to the basketball court, where practice and perseverance are necessary for optimum performance.

Recently, the USCAA named Barnes the Men's Division I Basketball Player of the Week for the second time this season. Barnes truly has been an asset to the team, demonstrating strong defense and stellar scoring.

Without the WTG, Barnes knows he would have less time for the moments in one's college career that become stories of inspiration to the youth he plans to serve. Barnes looks forward to continuing on the path of guidance and service as he enters his professional life.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Nonprofit schools retain a higher portion of full-time freshman than either the UW or the Wisconsin Technical College systems.

Source: (IPEDS Fall Enrollment survey, 2011-12 data)

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

