

WTG Achievers

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About the WTG

The twenty private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without 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 State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965 to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the needy 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 difference.*

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Lakeland future music teacher grateful for WTG



Crystal Iverson of Racine, a junior at Lakeland College

Crystal Iverson can't wait to teach her favorite subject—chorus. "Ever since I was in kindergarten I knew I wanted to be a teacher," Crystal says.

Lakeland College's choral department is helping her

achieve that dream. In fact, the Bradley Fine Arts Building has become her second home.

Lakeland might feel like home now, but when Crystal started searching for colleges, she only looked at larger public schools, just like her high school in Racine. She was accepted to six different universities and planned on attending one, but then she came to visit a high school friend who was a sophomore at Lakeland at the time.

"I was like, 'Wow! This campus is really pretty and it's small,'" Crystal says.

She liked the campus' atmosphere so much that she returned to attend the college's Christmas concert, which features Lakeland's various vocal ensembles. There she met Janet Herrick, associate professor of music and director of college choirs.

"We talked and connected right away," Crystal says. "It seemed like it would be a good place for me. I just forgot about any other place." Crystal enrolled in Lakeland as a choral and general music education major after making her second visit.

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WTG recipient, biology researcher, and future dentist gets what she needs at St. Norbert



Angela Armbruster of Green Bay, a senior at St. Norbert College

Angela Armbruster has always been the kind of student any college would like to have. An honors graduate of Green Bay East High School, Angela participated in softball, volleyball, and weightlifting

and volunteered at the Bay Area Humane Society and N.E.W. Community Clinic.

Despite the heavy schedule, she was a member of the student council for four years, including a term as secretary/treasurer, and was a member of the National Honor Society for two years, including a term as treasurer.

Early in her senior year of high school she applied to several public and private colleges in Wisconsin, and acceptances poured in. She soon had her pick of several

colleges.

That's when a friend stepped in and invited her to tour St. Norbert College.

"I set up a campus visit and fell in love with the campus during my tour that day. By the end of my visit, it was clear to my mom that I loved what I saw and that St. Norbert College would be the institution I would attend in the fall," Angela says.

Angela's successful high

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CRYSTAL IVERSON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That visit, plus a generous financial aid package that includes Wisconsin Tuition Grant money, is helping Crystal thrive in an independent college setting.

Lakeland's small campus made it easy for Crystal to get involved musically and socially.

With individual attention from her professors, Crystal found that Lakeland offered an education that catered to her needs in a family-like atmosphere.

"You're in Verhulst (the fine arts building) all the time, so we become very close," Crystal says. "The music pretty much grows as you progress through the years. The freshmen look up to you because you're the music junior."

Crystal participates in all the choral groups at Lakeland, which include the Concert Choir, Frauenchor, and Lakeland Singers. Under the

direction of Herrick, Crystal has performed with the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus in a local church and performed at Sheboygan's historic Weill Center with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra.

The ensembles give Crystal and her peers a chance to travel and perform each spring at United Church of Christ locations throughout the Midwest, where they meet many Lakeland alumni and stay in their homes.

"It's nice to see Lakeland's alumni," Crystal says. "They come and sing the alma mater with us."

Crystal's time at Lakeland isn't confined to music. She has played lead roles in Lakeland's theatre and musical performances and is an active member of a campus improv group and the Pi Kappa Gamma Sorority.

FACT OF THE MONTH

In 2004-2005, the members of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities granted degrees to 11,436 graduates.

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ANGELA ARMBRUSTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school career prepared her well for a busy schedule at St. Norbert College.

Now a senior, Angela is majoring in biology with an emphasis on biomedical science and a minor in chemistry.

She is involved in two research projects, has been employed as a teaching/lab assistant for the biology department, and was a research assistant this fall. She also works in the student admissions office and is a coordinator for an admissions counselor.

"I have had nothing but wonderful experiences at St. Norbert College. The faculty, staff, and students are friendly, and so willing to help you succeed.

"A small campus such as St. Norbert College, with a student body of just over 2,000, can give so much more to its students than a large campus can. The one-to-one attention students receive from professors and their willingness to help you succeed; the wonderful resources students have, such as abundant research opportunities; the friendly atmosphere of the campus and the surrounding

community; the amazing friendships and relationships that one can develop—these all attracted me to SNC and kept me here," Angela says.

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is of great importance to me and all the other recipients. The saying that 'every little bit helps' is so true for those of us who, for whatever reason, need financial assistance to be able to attend college," Angela says.

Following graduation next May, Angela plans to attend dental school with the goal of starting her own practice.

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