

# 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 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.

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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## Future scientist wants to "give back to the community"

Like many students at Ripon College, junior Matt Paquette depends on the state-funded Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) to make a private higher education more affordable.

But given the strong likelihood of sharp state budget cuts in the near future, the Waukesha native is eager to clear up a common misunderstanding about private colleges and their students.



*Matt Paquette, of Waukesha, balances a double major while financing his own education with the help of WTG.*

"Private education is not the province of 'rich kids.' More than 90 percent of the students at Ripon receive

financial aid and without it, a majority of students would not be able to attend," he said. "Everybody, regardless of background, deserves the high level of education provided by a private college."

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## WTG brings lifelong nursing dream a step closer to reality

Even as a child, Kristina Krueger wanted to be a nurse. And when it came to pursuing her dreams, the sometimes challenging decision of picking a college was actually an easy one.

Now a junior nursing major at Marian University, Kristina has already completed three clinicals with the local hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities in addition to her classroom studies.



*Nursing major Kristina Krueger, of Markesan, says a sense of community convinced her to attend Marian.*

Kristina chose Marian because of her desire to gain hands-on experience in a close-knit community setting. During her high school

career, Kristina took part in Marian's summer nurse camp, which helped her decide which college fit her needs.

"When the opportunity arose to attend the nursing camp at Marian, I jumped on it. Camp allowed me to see many aspects of the nursing profession, as well as helping

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## Matt Paquette continued from page 1

A double major in chemistry and Spanish with a minor in politics and government, Matt chose Ripon because of the chance to study multiple disciplines at once, and the promise of emerging as a well-rounded critical thinker who can communicate his ideas well.

"[M]y private education has exceeded my expectations, opening my eyes to new subject areas I never really thought I would study and giving me opportunities I wouldn't be able to have at a larger public institution," said the future chemist.

Opportunities aside, the question of how to pay for his preferred college was no less a consideration for Matt than it is for thousands of other high school seniors—perhaps more so because he is paying for college himself.

Although Ripon was his "dream school," he

might have had to consider other options if the math didn't add up. Despite the challenge of paying for his own education, Matt said doing so prevents him from taking anything for granted.

Matt embraces the implicit hope of the WTG, that his education may someday benefit Wisconsin's economy.

"[T]he fact that I receive money from Wisconsin taxpayers gives me a sense of indebtedness to the state—I must use the knowledge I gain at Ripon to give back to the community," he said.

It's a community that will undoubtedly be made stronger by an ambitious young man who is the perfect example of why the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is so critical for himself and the more than 10,000 other students who also receive the WTG.

### FACT OF THE MONTH

In 2009-2010, Wisconsin's private colleges and universities granted a record number of 12,751 degrees, including 8,339 bachelor's and 4,178 graduate degrees. Since 2000, the total number of degrees awarded has grown by 32%.

Source: WAICU research archives

## Kristina Krueger continued from page 1

me see what college life was like. It eased my decision when selecting nursing as my future profession, and Marian as my future college. At Marian, I'm not a number, but part of the family."

Because Kristina's transition from high school to college was easy, Kristina strives to help others through her work as a residence hall assistant and a past student mentor in the First-Year Experience program.

"My role not only helps me grow in my leadership skills, but also helps students

realize their potential and see that getting involved is a life-changing experience."

In addition to her studies, Kristina is an active member of the Marian University Student Nursing Association and the Marian Student Theology Club.

Kristina said her active role on campus would not exist without the help of financial aid, including the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"The WTG lets me focus on my academics. This grant has helped to fund my lab costs

and nursing textbooks. It truly helped me to achieve my goals."

After graduation, Kristina would like to work as a pediatric nurse. When asked about her words of wisdom for students trying to choose a college, Kristina said to look at the college community as part of the decision making process.

It's perfect advice from a student who is living her dream of becoming a nurse—a dream that's a step closer to coming true with help from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

### Wisconsin's Private Colleges and Universities

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

- Lakeland College Sheboygan
- Lawrence University Appleton
- Marian University 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