

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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Future Teacher Shines at St. Norbert College



Jordanna Ceesay of Appleton, a freshman at St. Norbert College

With the help of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, in four years another great teacher will begin educating students in

Wisconsin's public school system.

That teacher will be Jordanna Ceesay, a freshman at St. Norbert College, who plans to major in secondary education.

A native of Appleton, Jordanna said she always liked school, so she decided she wanted to become a teacher. She felt, "I may as well do something that I enjoy. Teaching is exciting and fun."

"It is my hope that I can get kids as excited about learning as I am. I want to bring about a little bit of change and do something to raise the level of teaching," Jordanna explained.

To achieve her goal to be a high school teacher, Jordanna chose St. Norbert College over three other colleges and universities.

"St. Norbert has that same kind of excitement in learning that I want to bring to the classroom," she said. "It made me feel part of the community. The school really was interested in me; it really cared about me."

Her first experience with her professors at St. Norbert was good. "They know their stuff, they help you understand. In a smaller, private college you have more chances to work

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Pre-Law Student Appreciates Fine Education at Viterbo University



Erin Fargen of Plain, Wisconsin, a senior at Viterbo University

Erin Fargen wants to change the world. "I want to make a difference. I see injustice and I think to myself...we can do

something to make the world a better place," said the Viterbo University senior majoring in criminal justice.

With such high aspirations, there must be a game plan, and Erin most definitely has one. After completing her studies at Viterbo, she plans to pursue a law degree and begin practicing international law. Erin hopes it will lead to a position working for the United States government in one of its foreign embassies.

"Eventually, I'd like to be an ambassador so I can help bring countries closer together. If we all start working

together, we could come up with solutions to some of the world's problems."

Though Erin's long-term goal involves making a difference in the world, she's already making a difference at Viterbo. As president of the Student Government Association, she's responsible for leading the student body through activities, policy recommendations, managing student activity fees and more with the help of the other officers and members. She's also been active in a variety of other clubs on campus including: Connect, Viterbo's substance abuse prevention

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with other people. It opens more opportunities," Jordanna said.

When she first began her college search, Jordanna didn't believe she would be able to attend a private college. Nevertheless, she knew that St. Norbert was her first choice. She was drawn to the college because of its highly recommended education program. She also said she picked the college because the smaller classes appealed to her. "I liked the campus, I liked the staff, and it has the program I want."

The financial aid counselors at St. Norbert worked with Jordanna to make it possible for her to attend. They put together a package composed of federal, state, and institutional aid that helped cover her college costs.

Jeffery Zahn, director of financial aid at St. Norbert College, said, "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant gives needy Wisconsin residents a greater choice in their selection of a school for higher education."

Jordanna is the only child of Laurie Ceesay, and is a graduate of Appleton West High School. While in high school, Jordanna was active in theatre, debate, and forensics, and theatre continues as her favorite activity outside the classroom. As a St. Norbert freshman, Jordanna has a full schedule of classes, but she hopes to work on college plays as well (she particularly enjoys the technical side of theatre productions). She also plans to get a campus work-study job next semester.

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helps a lot. It's the only way I could afford to go to a private school. I'm really happy here, and I'm grateful for the financial aid that made it possible," Jordanna said.

She is the recipient of a \$2,300 Wisconsin Tuition Grant, plus other aid arranged by St. Norbert College. The college takes the position that it is a partner with students, their families, and the government to make high-quality education possible.

FACT OF THE MONTH

More than 90 percent of freshmen at Wisconsin's private colleges and universities receive financial aid to help them pay for their education. The average financial aid package is over \$10,000, and consists of 76 percent grants (which do not have to be paid back) and 24 percent loans.

ERIN FARGEN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

group; the Resident Student Board; Criminal Justice Club; Biology Club; and tutoring in the Learning Center.

"I just love it here," said Erin. "I chose Viterbo because I wanted a small-school atmosphere, a place where I knew I wasn't going to be just a number. I visited a couple of other places, but something just feels right when you come here."

Erin, the oldest of four children, wasn't always certain she'd be able to attend the school of her choice. Her father is a Vietnam veteran who is medically retired from the post office due to an injury

sustained in the war. He and her mother currently own and operate a small farm near Plain. Those are just some of the reasons Erin wasn't sure she could meet the tuition at Viterbo. But when she received her financial aid offer, she was relieved to discover she qualified for a Wisconsin Tuition Grant in the amount of \$2,300.

"Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, I probably wouldn't be able to go to Viterbo. I get a pretty full financial aid package, but I know I max out my Stafford loans every year. If the Wisconsin Tuition Grant wasn't there,

many people who make the choice to come to Viterbo couldn't afford to do so," she said.

In addition to her extensive financial aid package, Erin also relies on a part-time job to help her pay her way through college. She works 20 hours per week in the Intensive Care Unit of a local hospital as a critical care technician.

Erin is grateful for the assistance the Wisconsin Tuition Grant has provided her and her family. In fact, her younger sister, Ellen, is also now attending Viterbo thanks to a Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

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*



From here, you can go anywhere.