

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.

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Northland senior travels his own road to the northwoods

Like many Northland College students, Jacob Sorteberg credits his appreciation for the environment to a lifetime spent outdoors—an appreciation he gained while growing up in many different communities across the United States.

Born in Denver (and a resident of that city for all of two months), Jacob moved around the country with his family frequently before



Jacob Sorteberg of Spooner said Northland's community environment was the perfect fit for his college plans.

ultimately settling down in Spooner, Wisconsin. Jacob thus became part of a "brain

gain" for the state.

The beauty of the northwoods fed his passion for outdoor education. It was also where he first learned of Northland College.

"Northland's small size and community-oriented

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A passion for Germany translates to a teaching career

Jean Brody loves everything about Germany—the language, the culture, and the chance she had to live and study there as an exchange student when she was still in high school.

While in Germany during that exchange year, Jean made her decision to enroll at Carthage College.

Two years ago, the Carthage senior had an even better German experience when she was chosen from more



Jean Brody of Pewaukee will turn her passion for all things German into a career as a high school language teacher.

than 200 applicants from the U.S. and Canada to spend a semester abroad studying in the legendary German city of Heidelberg.

"It was academically stimulating, and a very positive experience," said the Pewaukee native. "I traveled around Germany studying Martin Luther, and Heidelberg was all-around gorgeous."

Currently, Jean keeps busy with a double major in German and English along

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environment drew me in," he said, "and after my visit, I knew it was the right choice for me."

Now an assistant director of one of the college's residence halls, Jacob has been a campus leader from day one. As an adventure and outdoor education major, he has been active in campuswide efforts to introduce the region's unique surroundings to students who may be more accustomed to urban life.

Jacob has led three outdoor orientation trips at Northland. Before beginning their first semester, new students participate in a five- or ten-day trip that introduces them not only to the surrounding area, but also to other people in their small groups.

Jacob said the outdoor orientation trips have enriched the unique education he has received

at Northland. "Leading a trip with close friends let me explore how personal relationships in a professional setting can contribute to a program's success."

Jacob said that while his resolve to attend Northland was unshakable, financial aid like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant removed much of the strain of attending the college of his choice. In Jacob's case, that translates directly toward achieving his post-college goals.

After graduation, Jacob plans to take some time to explore the world before embarking on the next leg of his educational journey. Eventually he plans to attend seminary, where he will combine his adventure education experience with his faith. They are each fields that inform the other, he said, and together can create an opportunity for a deeper understanding of the world.

FACT OF THE MONTH

A significant portion of Wisconsin educators earn their degrees from a Wisconsin private college or university. In 2007-2008, Wisconsin's private colleges accounted for more than half of the reading teachers, principals, and district superintendents statewide.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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with a minor in secondary education, and still found time to run track and cross country for one year.

Jean said she's really improved her language skills at Carthage. She also praised a faculty member who helped her realize her dream of spending a semester abroad while in college. "Carthage instructors would work with me on any program I wanted, and that was great."

Aside from academics, Jean has been pleased with the close-knit, friendly atmosphere of a smaller private college.

"Carthage has been like a second home for me," she said. "I consider everyone here—faculty, fellow students, and the people I work with—to be like a second family."

Eventually, the young woman with a passion for all things German hopes to be a high school language teacher. In fact, Jean already works with Kenosha elementary school pupils to help them learn German.

But first, this talented student is aiming for a Fulbright Scholarship in order to spend another year abroad so, as she puts it, "I'll be an even better teacher someday."

Jean is the second in her family to be awarded a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, which led to her decision to attend Carthage. "I'm on a financial tightrope," said the senior. "Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, I wouldn't make it."



Join the fight to protect the Wisconsin Tuition Grant along with financial aid for all Wisconsin college students. Find out more at ProtectFinancialAid.com.

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*

