

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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Edgewood Student Plans Political Career



Stephanie Kundert of Brodhead, a freshman at Edgewood College

Stephanie Kundert received a Congressional nomination to United States Naval Academy, but when a spot at Annapolis

didn't open up, she decided to attend Edgewood College instead. But how could she pay for her college education?

"I now have the Wisconsin Tuition Grant to thank as well as the seven scholarships that I received," said Stephanie. "It's because of them that I am now enjoying my first year at Edgewood, pursuing my goal of acquiring a college education."

Stephanie is a freshman at Edgewood College, where she is majoring in International Relations and minoring in Political Science. She also works study for the Public Relations office on campus

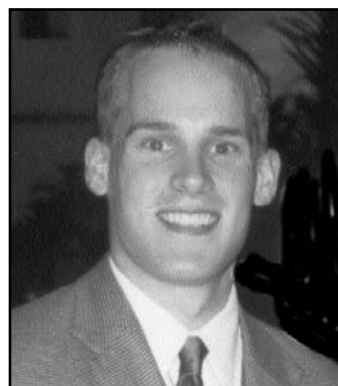
and plays pitcher/second baseman for the Edgewood softball team.

This January, Stephanie began an internship at the Wisconsin State Capitol with a State Representative. Her ambition is to work in military intelligence and foreign relations and ultimately become a U.S. ambassador overseas. She also plans to run for public office.

"Throughout high school, people always asked me if I plan to run for President someday, but I doubt that will ever happen!" Stephanie laughed. "Right now I'm

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Student Government President at Silver Lake College Has High Ambitions



Philip Sloma of Reedsville, a junior at Silver Lake College

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant can play a key role in keeping options open; take, for example, Philip Sloma,

currently student government president at Silver Lake College. He has set his sights on a U.S. presidential campaign as early as 2016. That's the year the Reedsville, Wisconsin native and Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient will be constitutionally eligible to run (age 35, natural-born citizen, etc.). When Philip fills out forms asking for personal ambitions, "I always say that I'd like to be President," he quips.

In the meantime, the Broadfield Social Science major at the Manitowoc

college is preparing himself for a career in politics while keeping other options open. Last summer he was one of two hundred American college students, four from each state, selected to participate in a "supervised fieldwork experience" coordinated by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The center is a non-partisan, non-profit educational program designed to emphasize leadership development in an actual political setting. This year's venue was a national political convention.

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STEPHANIE KUNDERT *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

considering the option of running for either the Senate, Congress, or the State Assembly.”

Another goal she has is to organize a foundation that takes in and cares for war veterans that are either homeless, unable to care for themselves, or cannot afford medical aid. “It’s my way of thanking my father, my grandfather, and all of the other brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for America and her people.”

Prior to her entrance into Edgewood College, Stephanie graduated with honors from Brodhead High School in Brodhead, where she lived with her parents and two younger brothers. Throughout high school, she was active in football cheerleading, basketball, softball, concert band, pep/marching band, jazz band, concert choir, show choir, District and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals, the National Honor Society, Student Council, the A.F.S. Club, the French Club, the Young American

Bowling Alliance, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and as a class officer (secretary). For her senior project, she ran a successful ten-week pitching clinic for softball players between the ages of nine and sixteen. In recognition of her accomplishments, Stephanie received numerous letters in academics, cheerleading, basketball, show choir, jazz band, and four in softball. She was an All Conference honoree and MVP in softball as well as the recipient of the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, the John Philip Sousa Band Award, three American Citizenship Awards, and the President’s Student Service Challenge Scholarship.

“With so much to work for and look forward to in life, I really cannot say what I would have done if I had never received the Wisconsin Tuition Grant or any of the scholarships that enabled me to attend Edgewood,” Stephanie concluded. “Grants like this can open up so many doors full of opportunities for young adults and help them toward a great future.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

A college degree is increasingly seen as an essential tool for economic success. In a recent survey by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, 87 percent of respondents said a college education is as important as a high school diploma used to be.

PHILIP SLOMA *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Philip characterized his convention experience as both stimulating and eye-opening, observing that the exchange of information and ideas at the convention really helped to crystalize much of what he was studying in related coursework at Silver Lake College.

“There are a lot of important issues facing this nation,” Philip said, listing the environment, human genetic engineering, education, health care reform, Social Security, and election campaign financing as particularly important. International or foreign policy matters also intrigue Philip, who says his history background

in college has been invaluable in terms of understanding and appreciating “the big picture.” History professor Patrick Gagnon, Philip’s academic advisor, recommended Philip for the field experience. “I thought he’d be qualified and interested,” Professor Gagnon said. “He’s really made the most of this opportunity.”

If the call to public service isn’t on the immediate horizon for Philip following graduation, he may want to go on to graduate school or check out the Marine’s Officer Training Program. He also feels that he has the aptitude and requisite

desire to be a high school teacher. And, since Silver Lake College has a highly regarded Teacher Education Program, he will be certified and hold a Wisconsin Teaching License if all goes as planned during the remainder of his time at SLC.

“I’d rather not lock into the order in which I would follow these career paths. I do think that all of them would complement one another and help with my preparation for the next,” he said. “I’m grateful for the solid education I’m receiving, and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant has definitely been one of the keys to that access.”

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.