

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 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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Deaf WTG recipient finds Ripon 'best decision'



Ashley Nuter of Racine, a sophomore at Ripon College

Sophomore transfer student Ashley Nuter of Racine is used to accommodating others. "All of my life, I've had to adapt to others in order to make them feel comfortable with my disability," she says. Ashley

found a different atmosphere at Ripon College, however — an atmosphere that has changed her life. Ashley, who has been deaf since birth, says she was afraid of not being accepted at Ripon because of being different.

"I was worried that I wouldn't be able to fit in," Ashley says. Her concern quickly dissipated. "Students are outgoing and understanding, and the professors are accommodating and encouraging. Ripon College is the best decision I could have made regarding my education," she says.

After spending her first year of college at a different institution, Ashley says she didn't feel challenged as a student. A childhood friend who was studying at Ripon suggested Ashley give Ripon a try. "I visited Ripon last spring, and I was so impressed with how I was able to interact with students despite the fact that we have different languages," Ashley says.

Ashley had never considered attending a college specifically for deaf students, "I'm a non-conformist. I like to step out and challenge people. I like

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Northland natural resources major and WTG recipient studies loons in hands-on project



Katelyn Revak of Phillips, a freshman at Northland College

Freshman Katelyn Revak came to Northland College because of its location and options. "I decided to attend Northland because I could get a biology major within four

years, and because the college is near the Chequamegon National Forest and the largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Superior," Katelyn says.

Coming from Phillips, Katelyn found Northland College close to home, an area she loves. Her passion for the outdoors made Northland College a logical choice because the college is focused on integrating nature and the environment into the classroom.

Double majoring in biology and natural resources keeps

Katelyn busy, but she could not imagine selecting anything else. "I chose them because I've always been interested in being outdoors and how everything evolves and connects with everything else." Her passion for the outdoors is creating educational opportunities that most freshmen elsewhere would not get to experience.

This summer she is participating in a study that looks at the impact of

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ASHLEY NUTER *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

to step out in an environment where deafness is little known and spread knowledge about the deaf culture," she says.

"Having Ashley in class has been a learning experience," according to professor of biology Skip Wittler. Due to the large number of new vocabulary words associated with his introductory science courses, Wittler has made an effort to change his teaching style to better accommodate Ashley's needs and the needs of her interpreter. Wittler now writes out vocabulary on the chalkboard more frequently. He and Ashley's other professors, however, welcome the prospect of learning new skills to be more helpful to Ashley, and say they are never hesitant because of Ashley's positive attitude and class participation.

"I have enjoyed working with Ashley, and I have found her to be very cooperative and fun to teach," says professor of psychology Joe

Hatcher. "What I especially appreciate about her is that she is very teachable. She enjoys learning new things and shows a real sense of accomplishment when she masters a concept."

Ashley says she appreciates how Ripon's sincere and concerned faculty members treat students as adults and that she has found the academic challenge she was searching for at the college. She also appreciates the financial aid — like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant — that has made it possible for her to be at Ripon today. Now she is not only a successful student working on majors in psychology and education, she is also involved in the college newspaper and intramural athletics.

"I am not surprised at the personable nature of the campus and community, but I am impressed about how everyone is always looking out for us as students," Ashley says.

FACT OF THE MONTH

A national survey of 1,000 American adults showed that they think government should do more to help needy students pay for college. Almost 65 percent agreed with the statement, "Congress should increase the grants that enable students to attend college and that do not need to be paid back."

"Americans See Money for College Somewhere Over the Rainbow," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Alvin P. Sanoff, April 30, 2004

KATELYN REVAK *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

water levels have on the nesting and reproductive success of the common loon in Voyageur's National Park. Once the three-year study is complete, recommendations will go to the management plan of the park. The study is one of five that the U.S. Park Service commissioned in order to determine how effective the current water regulations are within the park. The study findings will be presented to the International Joint Commission, which will then decide if the water rules should be modified.

Outside of schoolwork, Katelyn is

keeping busy with numerous activities, including attending Fur School. The course is designed to teach students about furbearer ecology, furbearer management, trapping, and skinning techniques. The intensive three-day workshop provides the rare opportunity for students to learn from wildlife biologists from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, educators from the Wisconsin Trappers Association, wildlife researchers, and Northland College professors — all in one weekend.

Katelyn is doubtful she would have had

these types of experiences anywhere else and credits these activities along with a Wisconsin Tuition Grant Scholarship for her success.

"The grant is helping me out greatly. Without it, I highly doubt I would be at Northland. I am going to be an outdoor orientation leader, I took Fur School, and I work in the biology department as a lab assistant [and play] intramural volleyball and football. These activities help me to become accustomed to the ins and outs of the school. It's been great fun, and I'm looking forward to three more years!"

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*

