

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 57,000 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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Beloit grad stayed in state, thanks to WTG



Jack Gallagher of Milwaukee, a 2007 graduate of Beloit College

When Jack Gallagher looked at colleges, his options spread from Oregon and Michigan to Minnesota and his home state, Wisconsin. Now a

recent graduate, he attributes his decision to attend Beloit College to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"It made the difference between choosing Beloit and going to the out-of-state schools," Jack says. "The grant made Beloit's financial aid offer better than everyone else's, and that's a big reason I stayed in Wisconsin."

Originally from Milwaukee, Jack was active academically and athletically in college. As an economics and management major, he connected his college experience in the classroom

to community projects and internships. In the fall of 2005, he and two other students completed a survey of sewage system issues in the town of Beloit through the college's student-run market research group, Belmark Associates. The final report was given to the town manager to use in policy-making decisions.

Jack believes his project and others like it serve as a bridge between the campus and the community.

"It allowed us to provide a service to different

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Alverno student embraces abilities-based approach to learning with help of WTG



Marshay Montrie of Milwaukee, a sophomore at Alverno College

When Marshay Montrie was a high school student at Rufus King in Milwaukee, she didn't want to attend a small

college – let alone one located right in her community. She was interested in attending a bigger, out-of-state institution, possibly San Diego State University in California. But her plans to go far from home changed after she visited Alverno College and learned of the programs available at the school.

"When I first visited Alverno as a freshman in high school, I thought it was nice, but I didn't want to come here because it was small," Marshay admits. With the passage of time, she revised her opinion.

"I came back and visited as a senior and I decided that I did want to come here," says Marshay, who has just completed her freshman year. "When you're so young, you have different ideas about what you want for your college experience."

So far, Alverno has been a perfect fit for Marshay. Her college experience has been all that she hoped for, and thanks to the scholarship and grant monies she's received – including the Wisconsin Tuition Grant – she's been able to focus solely on her

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JACK GALLAGHER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

organizations,” he says, noting that the students were able to gain valuable firsthand experience while the municipality benefited from receiving the survey information.

He also completed an internship in real estate development last summer and fall, working with the Hendricks Development Group in Beloit. While researching historic tax credits and grants for old buildings that need environmental remediation, Jack helped complete a final report on an old Beloit Corporation building by detailing how grant money was spent in its restoration. “The level of government involvement in the activities of a private firm surprised me,” he says.

Integrating a broad range of courses in a liberal arts education with actual skills and practice is something Jack plans to continue. “I’m thinking of possibly working abroad for a

year for a foreign department of commerce or chamber of commerce,” he says. That will give him valuable global credentials when he returns to Wisconsin to begin a career.

Jack challenged himself outside of the classroom, too. A captain of the swim team for two years, he saw sports as a way of maintaining his equilibrium in the midst of schoolwork and other projects. He thinks Division III sports are organized in a way that benefits students, by requiring a balance between academics and athletics.

“Participating helped my academics, because it forced me to manage my time,” Jack says. “It also forced me to have a healthy lifestyle.” Beloit had a positive impact on his life, and Jack is grateful that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped him to attend the college of his choice.

FACT OF THE MONTH

In 1980, college graduates earned approximately 30 percent more than people who completed high school only. Today the difference is about 70 percent.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

MARSHAY MONTRIEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

studies and not worry excessively about how to pay for tuition and other school-related costs.

“The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has helped me with my education by partially covering my expenses during my first year,” Marshay states. She is especially grateful because she does not think she would have been able to attend Alverno without it. “I feel like I am receiving so much more at a private college than a public college,” she says.

In addition to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Marshay has garnered the support

of prominent community organizations that have recognized her talent and potential by awarding other grants and scholarships which have helped defray her college costs.

She is the recipient of a Pearls for Teen Girls scholarship, a Greater Milwaukee Foundation Youth in Service Fund scholarship, a Sigma Legacy scholarship and a Fleck Family Foundation scholarship.

Marshay says she’s glad she made the choice to come to Alverno. She’s studying business, with a major in management

accounting, and she’s getting accustomed to Alverno’s abilities-based, assessment-as-learning approach to education.

“My transition to college has been easy because of how Alverno is structured. I wish I could have gone to a high school that had the same type of curriculum as Alverno,” she says. “My first year has been great and I’m looking forward to taking more business classes in the future.”

With her Alverno education, Marshay can look forward to a rewarding role in the Milwaukee business community.

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*

