

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 58,000 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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Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Mari McCarty, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Paul Nelson
Senior VP for Public Policy

WTG helps first-generation Marquette student



Katy Klinnert-Leukam of Waukesha, a junior at Marquette University

As a full-time student with a young daughter, an internship, a part-time job, and a leadership role on campus, Katy Klinnert-Leukam is always busy at Marquette. She is grateful to

the Wisconsin Tuition Grant for helping to make her educational goals a reality.

Katy always wanted to attend Marquette, but as a first-generation college student, she worried that her hopes were too "unrealistic." She began her undergraduate studies elsewhere but realized she did not want to give up on her dream of going to Marquette. She transferred to Marquette in the fall of 2006.

Since arriving on campus, Katy has felt welcomed by the students, faculty, and staff and is pleased to have found her place. "My favorite part has been the people," says Katy, who has been particularly

impressed with the university's faculty. Dr. Ulrich Lehner, assistant professor of theology, taught Katy's introductory theology course and is one of her favorite professors. It was Dr. Lehner's "ability to involve everybody regardless of their background" that impressed Katy.

She also finds the challenging coursework to be rewarding, admitting that Marquette is "harder work" than the other schools she has attended. Katy is majoring in public relations, but decided "to get creative" and develop her own interdisciplinary minor. Under

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WTG recipient at Wisconsin Lutheran College puts education to civic use



Maria Flores of Cudahy, a sophomore at Wisconsin Lutheran College

Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient Maria Flores is a busy sophomore at Wisconsin Lutheran College, but she is far from the "typical" student

she may appear to be. Maria is distinguished by the fact that she is also an elected public servant. In her after-school job, she serves as a member of the school board in Cudahy, Wisconsin.

During her freshman year of college, Maria, an education major, learned about a way of educating students to help them develop a sense of worth based on things such as trustworthiness and honesty. Instead of limiting her discovery to the classroom, Maria realized she could use this education concept to help make a difference in her own community of Cudahy, so she decided to run for the school board.

Maria's campaign emphasized the idea of character education and good citizenship. She pointed out that she was a strong candidate because she is a current student and she was recently in high school in Cudahy.

Maria's commitment and sense of civic responsibility impressed her fellow citizens, and she was elected to the Cudahy school board in April 2007. She worked hard to bring herself up to speed on all the issues before the board, and she says she has already learned so much, particularly about budgets, contracts, and unions.

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KATY KLINNERT-LEUKAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the guidance of Linda Menck, professional in residence in Marquette’s J. William & Mary Diederich College of Communication, Katy created a minor that combines studies in corporate communication, graphic design, and management.

Katy hopes that this combination of studies will help prepare her for a career in public relations for nonprofit organizations after she graduates in the spring of 2009. She knows firsthand about work in the nonprofit sector; before coming to Marquette, she worked for The Life Is for Everyone (L.I.F.E.) Coalition, speaking about her experience as a young mother, hoping to educate others and make a difference in their lives.

Katy continues to benefit from hands-on work experience at her internship at FOCUS Training, a leadership development company in downtown Milwaukee. She works in the sales and marketing department and enjoys being able to apply what she is learning in the classroom to the real world. She also continues to work part-time as an

independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics. She began working for the company three years ago and has since been given a leadership position, serving more than 200 customers and earning the use of a company car.

Despite her busy schedule, Katy still finds time to be active on campus. She was elected to the Marquette University Student Government as a commuter senator during her first year on campus. Running on the platform “creating change,” Katy described her vision for Marquette, listened to students, and asked for their suggestions. She now serves on the Student Life Committee, ensuring that students’ needs are met on campus.

Katy is making the most of her time at Marquette. During her first year on campus, she worked hard to pay for school but needed help. The assistance of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, in addition to Marquette’s Ignatius Scholarship, a Pell Grant, and several loans, enables her to arrive at a better balance of time for family, school, and work.

FACT OF THE MONTH

According to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, up to 3.2 million college-ready students will forgo a bachelor’s degree this decade because of financial barriers.

*“Mortgaging Our Future: How Financial Barriers to College Undercut America’s Global Competitiveness,”
2008 update*

MARIA FLORES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now she’s bringing her newfound knowledge back to Wisconsin Lutheran College to enhance her education and encourage fellow students. Maria is happy to be able to contribute to her classmates’ learning experiences. Because Wisconsin Lutheran is a small college, Maria welcomes the opportunity to participate in more in-depth discussions during class periods.

Maria’s experience and knowledge of how schools run not only helps her in the college classroom, but also while performing her student teaching responsibilities. Wisconsin Lutheran’s education program is devoted to

allowing its students to get as many hands-on experiences as possible.

Maria is thankful that her Wisconsin Tuition Grant relieves some of the stress of completing her college education. She is able to load up on credits in order to earn her teaching credential as soon as possible, rather than taking fewer classes in order to work more to pay for her credits. Without the WTG, she is afraid she would be in school forever while working extra hours to finance her education.

After graduation, Maria plans to be a teacher, and eventually hopes to become

a principal. She encourages fellow students to pursue their dreams. “You just need to do it,” she says. “You can’t be afraid of anything because you never get opportunities back.”

Despite her busy schedule, Maria keeps her priorities at the forefront. After the polls closed on election night and Maria was declared the winner, reporters called her at home to find out how she was celebrating. Maria said she was working on her Spanish homework. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has provided a student dedicated to learning with the opportunity to excel far beyond the classroom.

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*

