

## About the WTG

The twenty-one private, or independent, nonprofit 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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## Future teacher focuses on changing the world

Appleton native Rebecca Shackleton speaks with a clarity of purpose exceeding her years. She thinks about her future in terms of how she can have the greatest impact on the world. Few students genuinely see themselves as satellites orbiting a larger and more important world, but she does.

A double major in psychobiology and education at Ripon College, Rebecca says her



Rebecca Shackleton, of Appleton, is a first-generation college student dedicated to making a difference.

desire to make a difference in the world has opened her eyes to all the career choices in front of her. "I've been ex-

ploring whether teaching is what I want to do. I think I'm going to be really happy there, and I think that's where I see my life going."

Focusing on education as a way to change the world reflects the high value she gives to teaching and learning.

Rebecca, a first-generation

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## Aspiring entrepreneur hopes to follow in family footsteps

Two Rivers native Shaughn VanGinkel, a freshman at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, is easing into college life geared for success. "I feel for once that I am capable of accomplishing things I never thought I could," states Shaughn. A self-proclaimed "workaholic," Shaughn is considering a double major in business and accounting at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, where he is active on the golf team, in the Concert Choir and in the Silver Lake Cho-



Shaughn VanGinkel, of Two Rivers, says his parents have been the biggest influence in his life.

rale. Shaughn says he cannot imagine his life without music.

"When I'm in Concert Choir, when I'm in Chorale, or even

just in one of the music rooms at Silver Lake, I feel that I can detach myself from the stress and high pressure of life. I allow myself to let go, to let the music flow through me," states Shaughn.

Outside of school, Shaughn dedicates

himself to his job at B&D Embroidery, owned by his parents, Bridget and David VanGinkel. Shaughn began learning the ropes of the

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**Rebecca Shackleton** continued from page 1

college student, has always been determined to make college a reality. She had originally planned to attend UW-Stevens Point. Private college, she assumed, was out of her financial reach. She took a leap and applied anyway. Some time later, a call from a Ripon admission counselor changed her life.

“I sort of stashed the letter away that said what our financial aid package would be, because I was so convinced it would be out of reach. Then Amanda [Bradley] from admissions called and asked if I had looked at my aid package. I responded ‘No, should I?’”

When Rebecca did look, she saw that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, in addition to college aid, made Ripon significantly more affordable than a state school. With the door to a Ripon education opened, she dove in.

Rebecca is part of the federal TRIO program and is a member of Psi Chi, the psychology honor society. She’s taken two volunteer trips to Jamaica and a biology trip to a boreal forest. She has organized Tiny Terror on the Square, a children’s Halloween event in downtown Ripon, and has worked as a camp counselor at the Pilgrim Center on Green Lake. She is teaching a dance class to kids as part of the Ripon Area School District’s Building Resiliency, Assets, and Values in Everyone (BRAVE) program. Though she probably would have gone to college regardless, Rebecca says that Ripon has made her better.

“I feel like I’m more motivated to work hard because my professor knows who I am. If I even let one assignment slip, they would let me know that’s not the kind of work they expect. I think coming to Ripon really has held me accountable.”



In 2010-11, Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities continued to help ease the state’s long-term nursing shortage, producing 47 percent of the bachelor’s and 51 percent of advanced degrees in nursing.

Source: IPEDS Completions Survey

**Shaughn VanGinkel** continued from page 1

business at a young age, inspiring him to follow in his parents’ footsteps. The business, which was started in their home, has grown tremendously over the span of ten years. Now working as a consultant, side by side with his father, Shaughn both enjoys and values his job for the experience he has gained.

Receiving the Wisconsin Tuition Grant provides a “sigh of relief” for Shaughn, who spent many long nights applying for various scholarships and grants. “I really enjoy attending college at Silver Lake, but without this grant or any of the other

help I have received, it just wouldn’t be financially possible. It truly means a lot to receive this grant.”

“My mom and my dad have been the biggest and best influence. I honestly can’t put into words the impact they have had on my life. They have always worked hard to provide for our family and have both encouraged and inspired me to strive for more,” he says.

When asked how he wants to apply his degree in the future, Shaughn replied, “I actually have two intentions. My first

intention is to continue to help with the family business but, eventually, I would like to branch off on my own and start my own business.”

During his time at Silver Lake, he plans on narrowing his focus. “I have been brainstorming a lot of ideas,” he says. “What I want most is to establish a solid plan for my future. As you know with the economy today, job availability is a big concern. Business and accounting are strong fields to get into.” Shaughn hopes that, no matter what, he will become a contributing member of society.

**Wisconsin’s Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities**

Alverno College *Milwaukee*  
 Beloit College *Beloit*  
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*  
 Carroll University *Waukesha*  
 Carthage College *Kenosha*  
 Columbia College of Nursing *Milwaukee*  
 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 of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

