

About the WTG

The twenty-three 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 61,000 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 writer "thrilled" to be starting her career

Amanda Thuss, a senior at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, is enthusiastic about the future. "I am thrilled to be nearing the completion of my bachelor's degree and eager to utilize my skills and abilities in the professional workforce," she states. A self-proclaimed professional student, Amanda attended a local technical college and took classes at UW extension before transferring to Silver Lake College. "As an aspir-



Amanda Thuss, of Manitowoc, transferred to Silver Lake after learning about financial aid available to her.

ing writer, I knew I wanted to major in English," she explains, "however, choosing where to complete my degree

was a difficult decision." With a steady job and family in the area, she did not want to travel far which left her with local choices. "One of the most influential professors of my college career, Nancy Henschel, is an alum of Silver

Lake," explains Amanda. "I asked her to meet me for lunch one afternoon because

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Personal tragedy inspires student to take control

Lisa Senour is a senior nursing student at Columbia College of Nursing. She always knew she wanted to become a nurse. Lisa was the child that looked forward to doctor's visits because the nurses made the experience fun. She was not afraid of shots and still owns her toy stethoscope from Christmas 1994.

Growing up, Lisa was faced with a major health concern in her own family: her mother was battling cancer. Her family situation made it difficult for Lisa to look toward her future, knowing it would likely be without her mom. "My



Lisa Senour, of Brown Deer, was inspired by personal tragedy to become a nurse. Lisa is the second person in her family to receive the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

mother's nurses were an absolute support system for our family. They guided us through times of crisis, remission, and uncertainty," she says. Lisa's mother passed away while Lisa was still in high school, and it was a complete wake-up call for her.

"I realized while there are things I cannot control, I knew my future could not be one of those things. It was time to take charge of my dreams and make my life happen, instead of letting it happen to me. My mom inspired me to do everything I could with the time I

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Amanda Thuss

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I valued her opinion and wanted to know more about her experience at the college." Inspired by their conversation, Amanda completed her application and awaited the news that would inevitably change her life.

"I was unsure if I would be able to afford a private, nonprofit college; the numbers and figures were intimidating," she explains. "But then I received my financial aid package and my worries were put to rest." The Wisconsin Tuition Grant in addition to other college aid and scholarships she received made Silver Lake more affordable than the public colleges she had considered. With the financial support to attend the college of her choice, Amanda seized the opportunity and has not looked back. For the past two years she has served as editor of *Silver Reflections*, the annual literary publication of Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, a position which Amanda

states gave her the opportunity "to encourage and celebrate the diverse artistic and literary talent present within the Silver Lake community."

Now in her final semester of college, she serves as an intern in the marketing department at Silver Lake where she is able to exercise her writing ability as a contributing author for the college magazine *New Directions*. "My internship has helped boost my confidence and allowed me to grow both personally and professionally," states Amanda. Two years after lunch with her former professor Nancy Henschel, Amanda could not be happier with her decision. "Silver Lake College of the Holy Family is a true community. You are not a number, but an individual with skills, talents, and abilities. It is not simply an education you receive at Silver Lake but rather the experience of a lifetime that fosters both spiritual and intellectual growth."

FACT OF THE MONTH

The four oldest public or private colleges and universities in the state are WAICU members—Beloit College, Carroll University, Carthage College, and Lawrence University. All were founded before Wisconsin became a state.

Source: WAICU research archives

Lisa Senour

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have. I wanted to pursue nursing more than ever," Lisa explains.

Planning to pay for higher education had been an additional stressor for Lisa and her family. After her mom passed away, her father was raising three daughters, all in high school at the same time. Initially, Lisa chose a state school but it became obvious that it was not the school for her. When the time came to finally enter nursing school, she knew she wanted to attend a smaller, private college. "As Florence Nightingale once said, 'Nursing is an art,' and I want to make the best

art possible," Lisa says. She wanted the personal attention from professors and instructors and to have high-quality clinical experiences—all of which she has gotten at Columbia College of Nursing.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has made it possible for Lisa to look toward her future and be a part of Columbia College of Nursing. As she is in her final year of nursing school, she cannot envision being a student nurse anywhere else. "The students are tremendously supportive of each other, and this makes all the difference. It is the most surreal and

rewarding feeling to look down at the 'old hospital' from clinical and view the building where I was born." Without the WTG, she knows this may not have been possible.

"Enabling students to go to college, who could not otherwise afford it, is making a difference in the lives of our community and beyond. The more education that is available in this world, the better off we all are. Nursing is a career that changes right along with the world we live in and I am excited to see where it takes me."

Wisconsin's Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

- Alverno College Milwaukee
- Bellin College Green Bay
- 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
- Medical College of Wisconsin 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

