

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 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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Wisconsin Tuition Grant makes numbers add up at Carthage

While at Carthage College, Steven Metallo learned to harness the power of numbers and has coached fellow students to do the same with words.

Twice, the mathematics and physics major from Kenosha, Wisconsin, has participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience.

The program pairs faculty members with students



Steven Metallo of Kenosha, a student at Carthage College.

to collaborate on new or continuing research topics.

After his freshman year, Metallo spent a summer

working with a physics professor to analyze data that Carthage's microgravity team collected in its research with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). That experience opened the door for him to join

Carthage's RockSat team on an experiment for launch through NASA's Sounding Rocket Program.

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WTG means better life for student and her family

For Rachael Ferguson, of Waupaca, attending Marian University is about achieving her dreams for a bright future, while supporting her family at home. Ferguson is a divorced mother of two children. She wanted to not only better her own life but also the lives of her children. This dream led her to make a plan in which the first step was to attend college. The search for a place to get a quality education led her to look in many places before finding Marian University.



Rachael Ferguson of Waupaca, a student at Marian University in Fond du Lac.

"My mom really strongly recommended Marian," said Rachael, and she is confident she made the right decision. "Marian has such a close-knit community here, and the

professors are all very personable. These are my two favorite qualities of the school."

Ferguson's love of the close-knit Marian community has been a springboard for involvement in many extracurricular activities. "I

try to be very active on campus. Currently, I am a part of the Science and Math Association, as well as S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M., a club that

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In the summer of 2012, Metallo worked with a Carthage mathematics professor to tackle a dynamic systems problem. In November, he presented findings from those studies at a research symposium in St. Louis. Metallo said his on-campus presentations prepared him to showcase his research work at the larger forum.

Metallo spends much of his remaining free time working at the Carthage's Brainard Writing Center. As a senior writing fellow, he assists students' writing at any stage of their academic papers.

He credited his boss, Writing Center Director Jean Preston, for providing a positive atmosphere. Learning while earning and working with real "clients" and — a real effective — boss are part of the Carthage experience.

Metallo said he's extremely grateful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid provided by the college that allow him to focus on research, his education, and career goals. "I'm better able to experience all of the opportunities at Carthage because I'm not thinking 'How am I going to pay ... [tuition],'" he said.

Metallo said he enjoys having class sizes in college that are smaller than in some of the Advanced Placement courses he took during high school. It also is notable that, as early as his first year, Metallo had opportunities to engage in the kind of scientific research — with "real-world" opportunities — that usually is available only in graduate school. After he graduates in 2014, Metallo wants to start his own consulting firm, offering the same kind of personalized guidance that has benefited him.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Increased attention to students is available at private nonprofit colleges. WAICU-member colleges and universities have a lower student to faculty ratio of 12:1, compared with the UW System's 21:1 ratio.

(Source: IPEDS Data Center, 2012 Fall data)

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is for any LBGTQA student and anyone who wants to be an ally," said Ferguson. She recently became a mentor for first-year students.

In addition to being involved on campus, Ferguson is also working in a clinic as a medical assistant. As a nursing major and culture, media, and gender studies minor, Ferguson believes this work experience will be beneficial to her in her career.

When working with patients, she is able to apply both her major and minor. "I work with a young doctor who works

with young patients. Through what I am learning in classes for both my major and minor, I am able to educate my patients. I see this especially with my culture, media, and gender studies minor because in society today, people are a lot more open about their lives than they used to be. I am able to apply what I have learned from that minor to help them," says Ferguson.

This experience has led her to want to work in a similar setting, with patients who have similar issues.

"I want to be able to see my own patients and work with them, so my goal is to become a nurse practitioner. In order to do this, I plan on coming back to Marian for the graduate nurse practitioner program," said Ferguson.

In the end though, all of this would have not been possible without the help of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helps me pay for my college education and helps my children understand that college is possible for them also."

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 University *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*



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