

## 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 59,000 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.

WTG Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

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## Finding and strengthening bonds at Marquette, with WTG

Living in suburban Milwaukee, Ricky Stoll initially considered commuting to Marquette University as a way to save money. His parents convinced him to live on campus so he could learn from and contribute to the social fabric of university life. Now, as a junior, he is deeply involved in helping the development of others on campus as a second-year resident assistant (RA), a member of



Ricky Stoll, of Mequon, found himself drawn to Marquette by the passion felt by both current students and alumni.

the National Residence Hall Honorary, the social chair of the Kappa Sigma fraternity,

and a musician who performs with the choir, among other activities. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helps to make this possible, he says.

Ricky decided to enroll at Marquette after seeing the impact the school left on

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## Concordia WTG student looks forward to caring for others

Concordia University Wisconsin is not only where Jennifer Muth attends classes; it is where she found her true calling in life: to be a nurse.

The second-year nursing student grew up with her two brothers on a dairy farm in Cheeseville. (Editor's note: Yes, there is a Cheeseville, Wisconsin. It is just north of Mequon.) She attended a Lutheran high school, and now continues her studies in nursing at Concordia with the help of



Jennifer Muth, of Cheeseville, personifies Concordia's new slogan of Inspiration in Action.

the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"Concordia has a fantastic nursing program and is a place where I can continue

to grow personally and academically," says Jennifer. "The money from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant makes it possible for me to continue my education and will allow me to graduate with a bachelor's

degree and still not have too many loans," she adds.

Jennifer's aunt and a close

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**Ricky Stoll** continued from page 1

other family members who also attended the Milwaukee school. “They had such a bond with the university. When you talked with them about Marquette, you could feel the passion they had for the university and its mission,” he says. “I wanted to feel that same passion for something in my life so I decided to try out Marquette. After the first week here, I had that passion.”

After arriving on campus, Ricky was immediately influenced by his own resident assistant. “I would just hammer him with questions,” he remembers. Ricky’s RA nominated him for Marquette’s Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) leadership program and pushed him to get involved on campus. This left a lasting impression on Ricky and inspired him to give back. “I wanted to become a resident assistant when I saw what he did for me,” Ricky says. “It was a pay-it-forward mentality.”

Dr. Jon Dooley, senior associate dean of student development at Marquette, has worked with Ricky and calls him “an accomplished and successful student leader.” One of his favorite stories about Ricky comes from a retreat for the STAR Freshman Leadership Program. “After realizing that the rural camp did not recycle, Ricky quietly enlisted several of his fellow participants to sort through the garbage cans for recyclable materials and brought them back to campus for recycling,” Dooley says. “This incident speaks to Ricky’s compassion, dedication, and humble leadership style.”

A resident of Mequon, Ricky is majoring in corporate communication with a minor in marketing. He may attend law school or venture into communication consulting. But whatever his ultimate path, he’s grateful that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped him get there.



In 2008, fewer than 3 percent of all Wisconsin student borrowers defaulted on their federal loans, compared to nearly 7 percent nationally. Wisconsin private college students did even better, with a default rate of just 1.7 percent.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Education

**Jennifer Muth** continued from page 1

friend are also graduates of Concordia’s nursing program. It was her friend who was instrumental in her decision to enroll in the program. However, before Jennifer decided on pursuing a nursing career, she job-shadowed a nurse at a local hospital and also spoke to many other nursing students who went to Concordia. “Everyone told me that Concordia’s extensive program prepared them well for nursing,” she recalls.

Her goal is to become a registered nurse and, eventually, a medical flight nurse. She said she also has an interest in emer-

gency room and intensive care nursing as well as trauma care. Jennifer currently works at an assisted living home and also at St. Joseph’s Memorial Hospital in West Bend.

“Each and every day I learn something new and love being able to care for others. It is truly rewarding, and I look forward to the day when I’ll receive my nursing license and I’ll be the nurse caring for the patient,” she says.

While Jennifer’s focus is on nursing, she spent the 2009 spring semester studying

abroad in London. During that time, in addition to taking academic classes, she had the opportunity to travel to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Spain, an experience she describes as “amazing.”

With the start of the new school year, Concordia University Wisconsin unveiled its new slogan, *Inspiration in Action*, which coincides perfectly with Jennifer’s reasoning for choosing her career path. “Most of all, Concordia is a place where I can put my passion for nursing into action,” she says.

**Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities**

Alverno College *Milwaukee*  
 Beloit College *Beloit*  
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*  
 Carroll University *Waukesha*  
 Carthage College *Kenosha*  
 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 *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

