

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 54,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965 to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the needy 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 difference.

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MIAD Senior Puts Her Education to Work



Maggie Woelfel of Green Bay, a senior at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

As the saying goes, "Experience is a great teacher." And Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient Maggie Woelfel is powerful

proof that the student isn't the only one who benefits from its lessons.

The eye-catching banners and signs the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design senior created as a class project help draw hundreds of customers weekly to the Fondy Farmers Market on Milwaukee's near north side, where Hmong families peddle fresh produce.

Several miles away in downtown Milwaukee, brochures and displays she created as an intern at Northwestern Mutual are helping its sales representatives keep the

Milwaukee-based company among the top in its field.

Such real-life communication design experience is part of an education Maggie says she could not get anywhere but MIAD, and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program is making it possible.

"I started as a science major at another college, but I figured out pretty quickly that art and design are my first love," says Maggie, who graduated from Green Bay's Notre Dame Academy in 1998.

"I transferred to MIAD, and

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First-Year Student at Carthage Sets His Sights on a Career in Neuroscience



Kyle Olson of Fontana, a freshman at Carthage College

Kyle Olson grew up in Fontana, Wis., a small town only minutes away from Lake Geneva. A graduate of Big

Foot Union High School in Walworth, Wis., the Carthage freshman is excited to be at Carthage. "I believe private colleges offer a better education because their resources usually are better and the student-teacher ratio is lower," Kyle says.

His father is police chief for the Village of Fontana. His mother is a receptionist at a nursing home.

As with most families considering college, tuition was a concern. "My family and I initially thought that Carthage was out of our

financial reach. However, through scholarships and grants, such as the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Carthage was affordable."

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant program provides financial assistance to undergraduate Wisconsin residents who attend a private college within the state. Awards are based on financial need and range from \$250 to \$2,500.

Kyle considered other schools, including Furman University in Greenville, S.C., but he had his mind set on Carthage. "I

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MAGGIE WOELFEL *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

by my second day I knew this was it. This was where I was going to learn how to make my contribution to the world.”

As a communication design major, she benefits not only from classes with gifted and inspiring teachers, but also from the MIAD philosophy that allows students to immediately apply what they are learning in the wider community. In fact, much of her learning occurs outside the classroom. Maggie is one of a hand-picked team of top communication design students in the college’s “Visual Resources” studio, which provides graphic and Web design services for nonprofit groups throughout Wisconsin. She also takes part in the college’s extensive internship program, which places students in part-time jobs with local businesses.

“There’s a real emphasis on learning by doing here. I truly enjoy working with real clients,

meeting real needs,” Maggie says. “You know your work has to be effective.”

Maggie has received financial help from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program every year at MIAD. Her parents are putting two children through college (her sister attends Marquette University), and the Tuition Grant program helps the students – and their parents – make ends meet.

Even as she works on her many outside projects, Maggie is not neglecting her studies. She holds down a GPA of nearly 3.9 and expects to earn her bachelor of fine arts degree in May.

“It’s a privilege to get a state tuition grant,” Maggie says. “But it benefits everyone else, too. I’m looking forward to putting my education to work after graduation.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

Adults in the United States with college degrees are four times more likely to participate in job-related continuing education and training than those who have not completed high school.

– Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

KYLE OLSON *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

want to pursue a career in neurology. Carthage is one of only a few schools in the area that offers a neuroscience program. I visited the Carthage campus and talked to some alumni that live in my area. I knew I couldn’t do better anywhere else. Carthage was my first choice. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped me get in.”

Kyle credits Thomas Augustine, Carthage director of admissions and financial aid, with valuable counsel and encouragement throughout the entire admissions process. “He helped put together an appealing financial aid package and was available

whenever we had a question. It was clear he was really trying to help me get in,” Kyle says.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is one of several grants and scholarships that help subsidize Kyle’s college education. “Without having the necessary funding from my Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid, I probably would not be here,” he says. He thinks that, due to financial circumstances, he might have been forced to attend a public institution, instead of a small college that has both a strong neuroscience program and lots of personalized attention.

As a freshman, Kyle is slowly becoming acquainted with the Carthage faculty. He enjoys Professor Elaine Radwanski’s Biology 170 course and may pursue a minor in the subject.

Over the coming years, he hopes to secure internships that will allow him to work with physicians. After graduation, he is considering going on to medical school or pursuing a medical research position. Either way, he is grateful to Carthage and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program for providing him with the opportunity to further his education in his field of greatest interest.

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*

