

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 57,000 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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WTG helps Carthage student help others



Laura Juranek of Walworth, a senior at Carthage College

Laura Juranek comes from a town of about 2,000 residents, and liked the idea of attending a college of similar size. For the senior from Walworth,

Wisconsin, Carthage College turned out to be a perfect fit.

"I grew up in a small town, and I love that kind of atmosphere," Laura says. When she checked out Carthage, she felt right at home. "You get to know people really well."

Laura says she also considered colleges in Milwaukee, but preferred Carthage's picturesque setting in Kenosha, next to Lake Michigan.

"It's an hour from home," she explains. "You're really close

to Milwaukee and Chicago, but you're out of that busy city lifestyle."

At Carthage, Laura has a double major, in graphic design and communications and digital media. She has also been active in several groups on campus, and serves as president of the Christian Ministry Council, which plans student religious activities.

For the past two summers, Laura has worked close to her home at the Norman B. Barr Camp in Williams Bay, which serves underprivileged and

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With boundless energy—and the WTG— St. Norbert student pulls her own weight



Desirae Budi of Appleton, a junior at St. Norbert College

Desirae (Desi) Budi is only five feet four inches in height, but she stands tall both in her athletic endeavors and educational achievements.

Desi is a junior at St. Norbert College and is among the school's Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipients.

She is the daughter of Dennis and JoAnne Budi and has five siblings: John, Andrew, Joseph, Noah, and Talitha.

A native of the Appleton area, she attended Kimberly High School, where she was a member of the volleyball team for three years and was goaded into doing some powerlifting by her older brother, John, at the time a high school wrestler. Desi admits, "At first I couldn't do

anything." But she persisted and became so good that she worked with the Kaukauna High School team, which had a more advanced powerlifting program.

She participated in three events, doing the squat lift at 315 pounds, the bench press at 145 pounds and the deadlift at 315 pounds. Her effort earned her a state title in her senior year.

While in high school, Desi also was a member of the National Honor Society, vice

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Laura Juranek CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

handicapped children. “I love to work with children,” she says. “I’ve used all the things I’ve learned at Carthage to work with kids.”

In the summer of 2006, Laura was a counselor at the camp; this year she was assistant manager and program director, applying her considerable skills in management and working with people.

“I learned a lot of that at college,” she adds. “This is a real-life application.” She hopes to pursue graduate study in psychology, especially art therapy, which combines painting and drawing with traditional therapy techniques.

Carthage “definitely exceeded my expectations,” Laura says. “The opportunities here, the friends I’ve made, and relationships I have had with professors have helped me grow academically, personally and spiritually.”

One of the opportunities was a chance to serve others. Laura was part of a group of 17 Carthage students who spent spring break of 2006 on Mississippi’s Gulf Coast, helping to clean up the damage from Hurricane Katrina. She also took several photos of the work that were published in Carthage publications.

“I felt called to go,” she said at the time. “I was in awe of how appreciative the people were.”

Laura is grateful that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped make it possible for her to attend a college that felt right for her. A year ago, she was joined at Carthage by her younger sister, Kelly, who also received a Tuition Grant.

“I love having her here,” Laura says. “We don’t really see each other a lot, but we do spend some quality time together. It’s really cool to see her grow and change.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

College graduates are more likely to vote (72% with a bachelor’s degree vs. 52% with a high school diploma), less likely to be in poverty (4% vs. 15%), less likely to smoke (14% vs. 28%), and more likely to volunteer (41% vs. 21%).

Postsecondary Education Opportunity

Desirae Budi CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

president of the Kiwanis Key Club and editor of its newsletter, and a member of the Student Council, where she served as secretary, vice president, and president—all in a class with 256 students.

Higher education was always in her plans, with a desire “to stay somewhat close to home.” St. Norbert was among several institutions offering her scholarships, and an extra push came from her uncle, Robert Budi, a St. Norbert alumnus.

In addition to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Desi also qualified for a St.

Norbert Trustees Distinguished Scholarship and an Abbot Pennings Scholarship.

“Without that kind of help, I would not be at St. Norbert,” Desi said. She noted that, with six children in the family, “we all are required to pay our own tuition costs.”

As with all aid recipients, work and service to others are also part of the mix. At St. Norbert, Desi is continuing her interest in Kiwanis as a member of the Circle K Club. She is also the Biology Club historian and a member of the

Chemistry Club. In addition, she has an on-campus job working in the college library. Recently, she joined Alpha Xi Delta, a national sorority that focuses on children. With her boundless energy, it’s no surprise—she already is vice president for recruitment and recording secretary.

She considers St. Norbert College “a great experience. The college has good professors—they are energetic and they keep us busy.” She is majoring in biochemistry and plans to obtain an advanced degree in medicine, with hopes of becoming a pediatrician.

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*

