

## About the WTG

The twenty 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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## Future teacher says good education starts with access

Jessica Becker has found what for her will be the perfect future career.

"I want to be a teacher," said Jessica, a 19-year-old Viterbo University sophomore from La Crosse.

"I love kids and I want to make a difference in people's lives. Working with the next generation is a great way to do it because a good education is important."



Jessica Becker, of La Crosse, values education so much she wants to be a teacher.

Jessica's own education was made possible because of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant

my family to afford college without financial aid," she

and other financial aid. With a brother in high school who also plans the attend college, the cost of higher education is always a concern. "It would have been difficult for

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## Strong work ethic shapes this future politician

Paul Krechel started working at the tender age of eight and has never stopped.

"My family is not wealthy, so we all know the value of work. Each of us has paid for our own college education," says the St. Norbert College junior, the youngest of six children, adding, "we knew that college was a must for success, but we also knew that gaining that success was entirely our own choice."

Like thousands of other stu-



Junior Paul Krechel, of Port Washington, balances an incredibly busy work schedule with a passion for politics.

dents, without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid to supplement his earnings, Paul says, "attending St. Norbert College

time jobs sparked an even better opportunity for him. A former lawn-care client, an attorney, hired Paul as a legal

would not have been possible."

Paul's first job was taking care of horses, and that soon grew to include lawn and house care.

Eventually, one of Paul's many part-

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said. "It really helped us a lot. Education, and access to it, is so important."

Viterbo was the right choice for Jessica. She said she benefits from smaller class sizes and caring faculty members. In fact, Jessica says life at Viterbo is like being in a community where everyone knows your name.

As a La Crosse native, Jessica discovered Viterbo at an early age. Approximately 20,000 area elementary school children attend an Arts for Young America Family Series performance each year in the Viterbo Fine Arts Center. Jessica attended many plays with her family and even took a Viterbo theatre course as a college freshman.

"Sometimes I wish I lived further from my parents," she laughed. "But Viterbo kept me

here in La Crosse. I never looked at any other college."

When Jessica is not busy studying, she is likely to be on the job as a work-study student in the university's copy and mail center. She also enjoys the outdoors, hiking the city's surrounding bluffs and, like almost everyone her age, spending time with friends. Jessica is also involved with campus activities, and plans to be an active member of Viterbo's education club.

While graduation is still a few years away, Jessica said foremost in her mind is keeping to her goal of being a teacher, and making a positive impact on young people.

"I'm very thankful for financial aid and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant," she said. "It makes my educational possible."



Students with significant financial need constitute a higher percentage of enrolled students at Wisconsin private colleges (27 percent) than at 4-year UW System institutions (22 percent).

Source:

U.S. Department of Education

**Paul Krechel** continued from page 1

assistant to work at his law firm.

The strong work ethic Paul learned from his parents was a major factor throughout high school. He took four Advanced Placement courses, and still found time to play varsity soccer, as well as basketball, golf, and track at Port Washington high school.

"I also have a great passion for politics," says Paul, who debated during the 2008 election in front of 500 students and community members. He served four years on the Student Council and resurrected the Spanish Club, becoming its president.

The biggest impact on his life, however, came from his passionate care of a man who was dying from cancer. Paul spent every weekend with him and continually helped with whatever projects the man needed. "This man changed my life immensely. I owe much of what I have become to the experience I had with him."

Paul had not originally planned on attending St. Norbert College, because his older brother had gone there. Seven other colleges admitted Paul but, eventually, he did choose the same college as his brother and soon joined the Green Knights soccer

team. This past year Paul added a fifth class to his curriculum and is working two campus jobs. He's been involved in student government and works as a reporter for the school newspaper.

"My greatest enjoyment at St. Norbert is that I have the opportunity to do anything. I tell prospective students to get out of your comfort zone and try something new. For the future, it's on to a law degree, with a major in international law. Beyond that, politics is on the horizon."

**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*

