

WTG *Achievers*

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About WTG

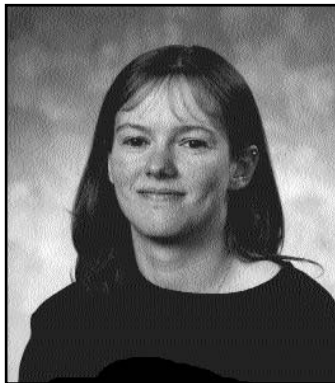
The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating over 50,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of two Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.

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Future Mechanical Engineer Excels at MSOE



April Schmaus of Beloit, a junior at Milwaukee School of Engineering

Financial assistance like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is really an investment in the future of Wisconsin and the

quality of life of all who live here. A good example is the story of a student at Milwaukee School of Engineering.

A work-study student throughout the year in the Financial Assistance Office at MSOE, April Schmaus has seen firsthand the needs of many of the students attending the university.

April considers herself one of the lucky ones. With an MSOE scholarship, a corporate scholarship, an Engineers and Scientists of Milwaukee scholarship, a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, and her job, April is in a position

now that will help her get that degree she covets.

Like many students, she wanted to come to MSOE because she knew that when she graduated, she would be able to get a good job. Countering the highly publicized "brain drain," 58 percent of MSOE graduates work and live in Wisconsin. However, as an independent student with a family contribution of zero, April knew she'd need a lot of financial help.

"Last year I almost had to drop out," said April. "The financial aid I received has

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Alverno College Student Prepares for Pharmacy Career



Natalie Szymborski of Milwaukee, a sophomore at Alverno College

When Natalie Szymborski filled out Alverno's admission

application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), she had no idea what type of financial aid she would be eligible to receive. Natalie was thrilled when, two weeks later, she was awarded a Wisconsin Tuition Grant of \$2,300, renewable for up to ten semesters.

Natalie's parents divorced when she was 17 years old. Her mom and younger sister moved up north; they currently live in Wausau. Natalie chose to stay in Milwaukee with her dad and 19-year-old sister. A year later, Natalie left home and took a

full-time job working for a doctor in a hospital setting. That experience led her to Alverno.

"I had heard so many positive things about Alverno's nursing program. My grandma encouraged me to consider Alverno. She worked in the health-care field, and was in contact with several Alverno nursing alumnae who spoke very highly of Alverno's program."

To save money while in college, Natalie moved back home with her dad and sister, who attends Mount Mary College. Because of his other

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APRIL SCHMAUS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allowed me to attend for another year.”

MSOE's promising placement rate of nearly 100 percent and exceptional starting salaries can only be achieved if students graduate. Like most MSOE students, April is a hard worker. An MSOE degree is not easy, academically or financially, yet she is confident she will graduate. She will be the first one in her family to receive a bachelor's degree.

“Attending MSOE is giving me the opportunity to learn a profession that I love, and to find financial stability for my family and myself,” said April. “Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, along with my other financial aid, I would not be able to get this education.”

In the knowledge economy, technical skills such as those April is developing are in great demand and are key to prosperous, dynamic careers that have a positive impact on how the world works, lives, and plays.

April has already been tapped for an internship next summer with the John Deere Corporation in Horicon, Wisconsin, and she is looking forward to it.

Like many of the students who excel at MSOE, April also gives back to the university and its student body. She is a peer mentor, Student Union Board member, and treasurer for the Residence Hall Association. Last year she was a National Association of College Activities representative to its 1999-2000 conference, where MSOE students received the Best Delegation Award.

“MSOE is preparing me for success,” April stated. I am more confident now than when I started, and I have a lot of ideas about the way I'll be able to use my degree.

“Eventually, I would like to work on developing new environmentally friendly vehicles,” said April. One can believe that she will make it happen.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Students at Wisconsin's private colleges don't get lost in the crowd. The 21 private colleges and universities in the state offer small class sizes (just 17 students, on average), guaranteeing that each student has a chance to participate fully in discussions and become known by the professor as a person, not a number.

NATALIE SZYMBORSKI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

financial obligations, Natalie's dad wasn't able to pay for Natalie's education.

“Our family's situation did not make college an easy option for me or my sisters,” Natalie explained. “We have the drive and the willingness to work, but we just do not have the means.”

This is where the Wisconsin Tuition Grant has made a difference. “Receiving this grant helped me to begin my education at Alverno and to stay at Alverno,” said Natalie. “I also work 20 hours a week on- and off-campus in Alverno's Academic Affairs office and at

a small hardware store in Milwaukee.”

Natalie changed her major to chemistry, and plans to attend pharmacology school after graduation. Why didn't she plan to do her undergraduate work at the same school where she will pursue her pharmacology degree? She says her decision to stay at Alverno, rather than transfer to another school, was a deliberate choice.

“Alverno is the right place for my undergraduate work. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else,” said Natalie. “I love it here. I like being assessed on my

abilities rather than receiving a grade for what I have memorized. I like attending a women's college; I don't feel intimidated in my classes. The faculty are very accommodating and are easy to reach when I have a question. I'm able to build a relationship with my instructors and, because the class sizes are small, I receive so much individual attention.

“I have no question that Alverno will prepare me for graduate school and for life,” she concluded. “The Wisconsin Tuition Grant will help position me to give something back to the community when I have finished my studies.”

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*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

