

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-two private, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 52,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The Wisconsin Grant was enacted in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Each month, Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU-member campuses for whom Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.

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Marian Student is a Podcaster, High-Tech Problem Solver, and Poet, Too

Kevin Simmons is the student every university dreams about. At Marian University, he wholly embraces the campus community, and all the opportunities Marian has to offer. In addition, he has the initiative and endurance to create opportunities for himself and others. "Kevin is everywhere," one of his fellow students said recently. He's exactly the kind of student that the Wisconsin Grant was designed to assist.

The Milwaukee native is a junior at Marian, a Management Information Systems major with a minor in Data Analytics. He says, "The Wisconsin Grant means the world to me. Without it, I would have been in a more difficult position with more financial stress."

Kevin uses his knowledge to lift others. Any day he can be seen working at the Marian Tech Hub, helping fellow students, faculty, or staff fix issues with their computers and phones. As an active member of Marian University's Business Club, he takes advantage of the tours of local businesses that the club sponsors. Kevin recently started a podcast he calls Operation New Hope.



Kevin Simmons

continued on page 2

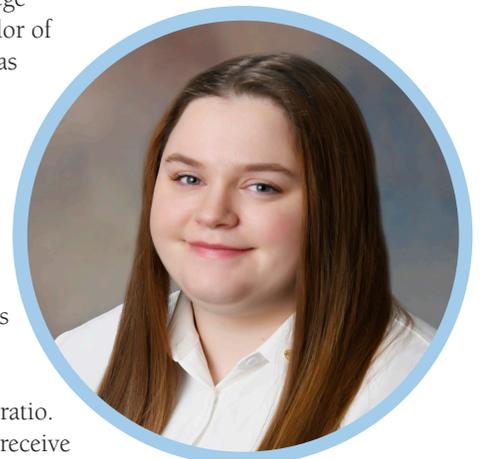
Bellin Wisconsin Grant Recipient Graduated in May in Nursing

A strong sense of community is an important aspect of any college campus. For Cerena Edict, a spring 2023 graduate in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, a tight-knit campus community was a major reason for choosing Bellin College for her education. Cerena attended high school at the John Dewey Academy of Learning in Green Bay and was interested in continuing her education at a college that values community as much as she does.

"My school had a graduating class of 11 people," says Cerena. "So, I really appreciated the small campus and smaller class sizes that Bellin College had to offer!"

The average class at Bellin College has a 14:1 student to faculty ratio. Bellin faculty know their students on a personal level. Students receive sufficient one-to-one time with faculty to ensure academic success. In addition, the small class sizes allow students to bond with their cohort and receive plenty of opportunities to participate in classes.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program continues to be one of the popular choices among students interested in a health care career at Bellin College. This past May, 70 students graduated from Bellin with a BSN. As one of those graduates, Cerena credits the Wisconsin Grant as one of the steppingstones to receiving her BSN.



Cerena Edict

continued on page 2

Kevin Simmons continued from page 1

He has been interviewing successful people in business, like Aaron Sadoff, executive director of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation, who is also a Marian alum and a member of Marian’s Board of Trustees.

But he’s not all business. Kevin is also a talented poet. He recently recited his original poetry at The Spoken Word event at the Thelma, the local performing arts center in Fond du Lac. The event inspired him to start an Open Mic night on the Marian University campus in the Common Grounds Coffee House, where other students share their own work. He dabbles in writing music and can play the guitar and the recorder. Why did he choose Marian? “Marian provided me with a tight knit community. It’s far enough from home to be independent, but close enough if I need to get home.”

After college, Kevin would like to travel and see places like Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Nepal. He added Nepal after learning more about it from one of the students from Nepal who also works at the Marian Tech Hub. Kevin is a natural networker, who makes friends easily with students from diverse backgrounds. One thing that surprised him about Marian is that it was more diverse than he thought. “It’s great to learn alongside people from all walks of life,” he says.

He is hoping to be successful in business, so he can make positive changes in his hometown of Milwaukee, like lowering crime and consolidating communities throughout Milwaukee. “I’d like to make it one, big community. I love the city. It will always be a part of me.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

WAICU members produce 24 percent of all bachelor’s degrees and 24 percent of all advanced degrees in Wisconsin.

Source: IPEDS, Completions Survey, 2020-2021

Cerena Edict continued from page 1

“Being a Wisconsin Grant recipient has made the extremely fortunate opportunity to study at Bellin much more affordable.” Cerena says. “I was able to cut back a little bit on working and really focus on my studies to be the best evidenced-based nurse.” For the last two years, Cerena has also been working as a CNA and Student Nurse Tech at Bellin Hospital, affirming her longtime dreams of becoming a registered nurse.

“I knew that I wanted to be a part of the nursing community after receiving medical treatment and watching my family be treated by loving and compassionate people,” says Cerena. “I look forward to being there for people in their vulnerable moments.” Following graduation, Cerena is staying in the Green Bay area, continuing her health care journey with Bellin Health, specifically on their maternity unit.



Wisconsin’s Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

Alverno College - Milwaukee
 Bellin College - Green Bay
 Beloit College - Beloit
 Carroll University - Waukesha
 Carthage College - Kenosha
 Concordia University Wisconsin - Mequon
 Edgewood College - Madison

Herzing University - Milwaukee
 Lakeland University - Plymouth
 Lawrence University - Appleton
 Marian University - Fond du Lac
 Marquette University - Milwaukee
 Medical College of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design - Milwaukee

Milwaukee School of Engineering - Milwaukee
 Mount Mary University - Milwaukee
 Nashotah House - Nashotah
 Northland College - Ashland
 Ripon College - Ripon
 St. Norbert College - De Pere
 Viterbo University - La Crosse
 Wisconsin Lutheran College - Milwaukee