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WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

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Lawrence University Student Embraces Student Leadership

Lawrence University senior Isabel Dorn, active in student leadership since her first year on campus, is enjoying new interactions and responsibilities as president

of the Lawrence University Community Council (LUCC). "I want LUCC to be a source of support for students and a forum for hands-on problem-solving," Isabel says.



Isabel Dorn

"This grant has been crucial in my success, and I greatly appreciate all of the support I have received."

LUCC is the student branch of Lawrence's shared governance. It recognizes and funds student organizations and events, works with faculty and campus administration on internal noncurricular legislation, and

provides a student voice on campus issues.

Isabel, of New London, is pursuing majors in English (creative writing), Russian studies, and government, with an expected graduation date of June of 2025.

During her first year at Lawrence, Isabel served on LUCC's Sustainability and Student Welfare committees. Her involvement has grown from there. In the spring, she was elected president by a vote of Lawrence students.

"Being president isn't just a ceremonial duty. You must gather student feedback, synthesize these ideas into a practical plan, and collaborate to find the resources needed to implement these reforms," she says. "I've seen LUCC do a lot of good during my time at Lawrence."

Isabel is working to update LUCC policy to keep it efficient, consistent, and equitable. And she is working to connect LUCC with Conservatory of Music students, athletes, and Greek life.

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Wisconsin Grant Recipient Lives Marian University's Core Values

You could say Zenaida Rodriguez, a senior Early Childhood Elementary Education major at Marian University of Wisconsin, has teaching in her blood. "My mother is also a teacher, so I've grown up in a classroom and know the time and effort that goes into this career," says Zenaida. "I enjoy working with kids and appreciate the opportunities I've had to be in a teaching setting."

The Wisconsin Grant Program recipient, who is slated to graduate in May of 2026, was born in Appleton, but grew up in Chilton and attended Roncalli High School. "Being a Wisconsin Grant recipient means a lot to me," she said.

She is deeply involved in many activities, which all touch on Marian's Core Values of Community, Learning, Service, Social Justice, and Spiritual Traditions. She is treasurer for the Self-Care Club, focusing on mental health awareness on campus, and is a peer leader for TRIO/Student Support Services.

She was instrumental in planning Read for Life, which brought more than 500 first graders to Marian University for activities that encouraged reading. And she volunteers with Campus Ministry.

Zenaida is also working in the Financial Aid office as a student worker. In addition to her major, she has a double minor in Spanish and Psychology.

Zenaida feels Marian faculty are invested in her success. "My instructors are passionate about teaching and as a result, they create an environment where I feel driven to be more fully engaged," she says. "This Wisconsin Grant allows me to focus on my



Zenaida Rodriguez

"This Wisconsin Grant allows me to focus on my studies and future goals with more peace of mind. For many students like me, it makes a huge difference in achieving our dreams."

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The Wisconsin Grant Program

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 51,000 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 the Wisconsin Grant Program has made a significant difference.

Isabel Dorn

"Bringing these groups together is crucial to building a cohesive Law-rence community and fostering col-laborative solutions, especially on such a small campus," Isabel says.

After graduating from Lawrence, Isabel plans to pursue law school with the intention of becoming a public interest lawyer. She is appreciative of the Wisconsin Grant Program that has been a key part of her financial aid package at Lawrence.

"Financial resources like the Wis-consin Grant have provided me with the opportunity to earn my bachelor's degree at Lawrence, gain hands-on leadership experience in college, and pursue a future professional career in law," Isabel says. "This grant has been crucial in my success, and I greatly appreciate all of the support I have received."

Zenaida Rodriguez

studies and future goals with more peace of mind. For many students like me, it makes a huge difference in achieving our dreams."

Marian faculty recognize Zenaida's potential. "Zenaida is truly student-centered. Her face lights up when working with and talking about her students," says Philip Johnson, teacher education instructor at Marian. "Zenaida has an incredibly bright personality, and the skill set not just to be a good teacher, but a truly great teacher."

As a volunteer in the Fond du Lac Public Library's DesignLab, a summer science and arts-integrated program, Zenaida taught third graders with boundless energy and curiosity how to plant seedlings and work with modeling clay. The students were drawn to her infectious smile, and the personal attention she gave to each young person.

After graduation, Zenaida wants to teach and simultaneously, continue her education and earn her master's degree. "I'm pursuing education because of the impact my teachers had on me. I want to do the same for my students," she says.

"The most important thing I've learned at Marian is that success is a journey," says Zenaida. "It truly is about the experiences and lessons that happen along the way to reaching your goal."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Adults with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$2.8 million during their careers, \$1.2 million more than the median wage of workers with a high school diploma.

Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce,
"The College Payoff," 2021.