



Vol. 26, No. 2  
September 2025

# WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

Wisconsin Achievers is published by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)

## Carthage Sophomore Makes Mark in Community

Growing up in Kenosha made Destiny Garcia's decision to attend Carthage College an easy one. "Staying close to home allowed her to build on connections she had already made in the community.



**Destiny Garcia**

*"With the Wisconsin Grant financial support, I can focus on my learning, professional development, and community ties. I can take full advantage of what Carthage offers."*

Currently starting her sophomore year, Destiny is determined to pursue a career in the medical field, starting by majoring in biology at Carthage with a minor in Spanish.

"I want to work in healthcare. My high school dream has always been to be an endocrinologist," says Destiny. "I feel that it is my calling to focus my love for science and people toward alleviating that baggage — physically and emotionally."

Destiny can attend Carthage College, in

part, because of the Wisconsin Grant Program. "I feel truly blessed to be recognized as someone worth investing in," she says. "With the Wisconsin Grant financial support, I can focus on my learning, professional development, and community ties. I can take full advantage of what Carthage offers."

Throughout her first year, Carthage professors encouraged her, challenged her, and opened her eyes to unseen connections. Destiny hopes to study abroad during her time at Carthage, choosing from January Term study tours with a cultural, religious, or healthcare focus.

Outside of class, she's involved in a variety of organizations both on and off campus. She is a member of *Mi Gente*, a group open to all students that promotes Hispanic culture and is a volunteer with the Readers are Leaders Tu-

continued on page 2

## Mount Mary University Student's Goal: Librarian

From a young age, Anna Hope Davis wanted to transform her love of literature and creative writing into a career.

As a high school student, Anna Hope worked as a library aid in the school library where she could be surrounded by books. The experience made her realize it was possible to turn her love for reading into a career. Now in her junior year at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, she continues part-time library work as she pursues her college studies.

Anna Hope knew that a college education would be an essential step toward achieving her professional goals. As a high-achieving student with a strong academic record, she was confident in her ability to succeed but was unsure how she would finance her studies. Anna Hope met with guidance counselors at her Delafield

high school to help her identify scholarship opportunities.

There she learned about the Wisconsin Grant Program, a needs-based funding program for undergraduate students. She applied, and to her delight, was eligible to receive funding. The Wisconsin grant would prove instrumental to her academic success, making the dream of earning a college degree a reality.

"This grant has made my college experience

possible. Now I'm not worried about paying for school and I can focus on my studies," she says.

Anna Hope wanted to attend a smaller university where she would receive personalized attention and



**Anna Hope Davis**

*"This grant has made my college experience possible. Now I'm not worried about paying for school and I can focus on my studies."*

continued on page 2



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

122 W. Washington Avenue  
Suite 700  
Madison, WI 53703-2723  
608.256.7761  
editor@waicu.org

**Eric W. Fulcomer, PhD**  
President & CEO

**Rebecca Larson**  
Executive Vice President for External  
Relations

**Pamela Seelman**  
Director of Marketing  
and Communications

## Our Members

Alverno College  
Bellin College  
Beloit College  
Carroll University  
Carthage College  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
Edgewood University  
Herzing University  
Lakeland University  
Lawrence University  
Marian University of Wisconsin  
Marquette University  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
Mount Mary University  
Ripon College  
St. Norbert College  
Viterbo University  
Wisconsin Lutheran College

## The Wisconsin Grant Program

Our private, nonprofit colleges and universities operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide 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.

Since 1965, the Wisconsin Grant has helped qualified Wisconsin citizens succeed. Wisconsin Achievers share success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU-member campuses for whom the Wisconsin Grant Program has made a significant difference.

## Destiny Garcia

toring Program through the United Way of Kenosha County.

Her work with the Youth Voice Project at Building Our Future, an organization that focuses on empowering students and local organizations through leadership, has been especially impactful. Destiny's principal at LakeView Technology Academy recommended her for the program in 2022, describing her as a silent leader.

This organization has helped to bring out Destiny's leadership skills through multiple workshops and a youth-led school board candidate forum. Those skills have now brought her an internship within the Youth Voice Project (YVP) at Building Our Future.

In May 2025, she received the Kenosha Mayor's Youth Commission Award for her ongoing contributions. Destiny's leadership skills and drive for success have influenced who she is as a person, allowing her to grow from her experiences and foster a community with those around her.

"My work with Building Our Future has built me into the leader I am today," she says. "We teach that leaders are made, not born. Through meaningful work and pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones, we grow. I was the quietest person in a room and would hardly speak when called on, but through the leadership workshops and the supportive, small-group environment of YVP, I am making waves in my community."

She is honored to be someone her community can trust and rely on as she continues her education at Carthage.

## Anna Hope Davis

support from professors and peers. She says that Mount Mary is a place where she feels at home and flourishes creatively and academically.

Anna Hope is a high achiever whose stellar grades have earned her a place on the dean's list each semester since she began. She is an active participant in the *Arches* student publication and president of the campus creative writing club. She also serves as a peer tutor, helping other students succeed in their English and writing courses.

Anna Hope will graduate from Mount Mary University in 2027 with a creative writing major and journalism minor. After earning her bachelor's degree, she plans to pursue a master's degree in library science. Anna Hope also wishes to fulfill her dream of becoming a published author one day.

"Both Mount Mary and the Wisconsin Grant have opened so many doors. Both have given me opportunities that I don't believe I would have had anywhere else," she adds.

## 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.