



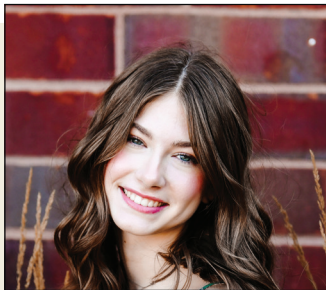
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WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

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Finding Her Path Through Science, Service, and Support

When Josephine Hoerth left her hometown of Lancaster to study at Marian University, she carried with her a deep sense of purpose. Now a sophomore major-



Josephine Hoerth

“As a forensic science major working two jobs, the Wisconsin Grant Program has taken a huge weight off my shoulders. It allows me to focus on my classes and future.”

ing in forensic science and chemistry, she is steadily building the foundation for a career rooted in truth, service, and compassion.

Josephine has always been fascinated by the power of science to uncover answers that aren’t immediately visible. That curiosity, paired with a desire to help people during moments of crisis, led her to forensic science. She envisions herself one day working in a forensic laboratory, carefully analyzing

evidence that could bring clarity and closure to families facing unimaginable circumstances. “That’s what motivates me—being able to use science to support the justice system and help people during some of the hardest moments of their lives,” she says.

Her journey, however, hasn’t been without challenges. Like many college students, Josephine balances a full academic load with the financial realities of higher education. On top of her coursework, she works two jobs to support herself. The strain can be heavy, but she is able to manage.

“As a forensic science major working two jobs, the Wisconsin Grant Program has taken a huge weight off my shoulders,” Josephine explains. “It allows me to focus on my classes and future instead of worrying about how I’m going to afford school.”

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Growing Through Leadership at Wisconsin Lutheran College

Brooke Bluhm initially chose to attend Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) because she wanted to play soccer at the collegiate level and earn a degree close to home. A senior from New Berlin who attended Heritage Christian School, Brooke said she felt even more confident in her college decision once she arrived on campus.

“I found a solid group of friends, and I felt welcomed by the community here. I have made lifelong friends who have gotten me through tough injuries and hard classes. These are the people I am beyond thankful for.”

The digital marketing major also discovered additional benefits of attending WLC. “I love that our campus is small because it is easier to connect with people, especially our professors. They care about each and every student, and it is easy to find help when needed,”

says Brooke. “I love the assistance students get with finding internships and the leadership opportunities available on campus as well.”

Brooke has many fun memories of her time at WLC. One of her favorite experiences was a leadership opportunity that she took advantage of through the college’s Warrior Orientation and Welcome program. “Being a leader for our freshman orientation program was a really good learning experience about how to be organized and lead our new students,” says

Brooke. “I stepped out of my comfort zone. At first it



Brooke Bluhm

“I am so thankful for this grant because without it, I don’t know if I would be attending WLC, which means I wouldn’t have met the friends I have, played soccer on this team, or achieved what I have regarding my education.”

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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.

Josephine Hoerth

For her, the Wisconsin Grant is more than financial support. It's a reminder that her goals matter, and that there are people and systems invested in her success. The grant has given her the breathing room to study, grow, and fully engage in the academic experiences that will shape her future career. It also has allowed her to continue finding balance in her life, something she values deeply.

Outside the lab and classroom, Josephine embraces a quieter side of life. She loves hiking Wisconsin's trails, finding peace in nature, and grounding herself in open spaces. She's an avid reader, often carrying a book in her backpack between classes and work shifts. As a thrifter with a passion for sustainability, she enjoys giving new life to old items, making small choices that reflect her commitment to caring for the earth.

Most importantly, Josephine cherishes time with friends and family. Whether it's a weekend visit home or a late-night study session with classmates, these connections keep her motivated.

Looking ahead to her planned graduation in 2028, Josephine feels confident, supported, and inspired. With the academic opportunities at Marian, the financial support of the Wisconsin Grant, and her own determination, she is steadily moving toward a future where science and service come together, and where she can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Brooke Bluhm

was nerve-racking. But I met so many new people and felt like I left an impact on our incoming students. I had a lot of fun and won't forget the experience."

With four younger siblings, funding for Brooke's education can be a challenge. "Receiving a grant through the Wisconsin Grant Program has greatly impacted my college experience," she says. "I have a sister who goes to WLC--sophomore Morgan Bluhm, who also plays soccer for the Warriors--so it is extremely helpful to have this financial support to be able to attend college and play the sport I love while earning a degree."

The Wisconsin Grant and other financial aid has allowed Brooke to be in the best place for her to pursue a college education and succeed on the soccer field. She was named a Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) Scholar-Athlete and was Second Team All-NACC in 2023. "I am so thankful for this grant because without it, I don't know if I would be attending WLC, which means I wouldn't have met the friends I have, played soccer on this team, or achieved what I have regarding my education."

As Brooke wraps up her career with the Warriors women's soccer team and looks ahead to graduation, she hopes to intern with a sports team, leading to a career working in marketing with a sports franchise.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Thirty percent of all WAICU undergraduates are first-generation students.

Source: WAICU Institutional Survey, 2024-2025