

What's New

at Wisconsin's Independent Colleges and Universities

Summer 2025

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Wisconsin Grant–Private, Nonprofit: A Needed Boost for Student Aid

On July 3, the Legislature passed, and Governor Tony Evers signed, Wisconsin's 2025–2027 biennial state budget.

Following months of sustained advocacy by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), its member institutions, and stakeholders, the budget includes a \$5.86 million increase in Wisconsin Grant funding for students attending private, nonprofit institutions—a 10.3 percent rise over the biennium.

This marks the largest percentage increase in over ten years.

And Yet, More Work Remains

The Impact of the Reconciliation Bill on Private Higher Education

President & CEO

Eric W. Fulcomer's Independent Insights

On July 4, President Donald Trump signed the sweeping Reconciliation Bill, dubbed by supporters as the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” into law. At 940 pages, the legislation ushers in a new period of federal policy that includes the continuation of Trump-era tax cuts, major shifts in federal spending, and significant reforms to higher education policy.

While the final bill contains major changes, effective advocacy from the higher education community helped blunt the most harmful proposals that would have disproportionately impacted private colleges and universities.



Insights Here

Check Out These College Highlights!

Bellin College Gains Full Accreditation for Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

In April, Bellin College was officially awarded full accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) after successfully completing the candidacy process over the last four years.



Beloit College Offers New Nursing Program in Partnership with Edgewood University



This spring Beloit College launched an innovative new nursing program in partnership with Edgewood University that provides students with a transformative educational experience that combines a foundation in the liberal arts with hands-on nursing training.

Lakeland: Wisconsin's Only Carnegie Opportunity College

Lakeland University has been recognized as a Carnegie Opportunity College, a prestigious national designation awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in partnership with the American Council on Education.





Lawrence Students Savor Immersive Arts Experience in New York City

Lawrence University took its celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Conservatory of Music to New York City over spring break. Eleven students were part of the trip—seeing performances at iconic arts venues, taking part in individual lessons and master classes, and presenting a concert for Lawrence alumni and friends at Manhattan School of Music.



Marian University of Wisconsin to Unveil New Rad Tech Space This Fall

Marian University of Wisconsin is set to unveil a state-of-the-art Radiologic Technology space for its popular Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology (BSRT) degree.

This ambitious renovation project, located on the third floor of Agnes Hazotte Hall on the Marian University campus, is currently underway and scheduled for completion by the fall of 2025.



Marquette University Has New Wellness + Helfaer Recreation Facility

Marquette University opened its new Wellness + Helfaer Recreation facility, a 195,000-square-foot reimagining of health, wellness, and recreation services on January 13, the first day of the 2025 spring semester.

Viterbo University Hosts Opioid Crisis Health Summit Made Possible Through Grant

Health and mental health professionals, educators, and college students came together in April for the RESPOND Together: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis behavioral health summit at Viterbo University.





Wisconsin Lutheran College Adds Professional Counseling Program

Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) is adding a Master of Science in Professional Counseling degree program, following full approval from the college's accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission.

Counselor News & Notes

Wisconsin Employers Share Value of Wisconsin Private Colleges Grads



WAICU has created a series of short videos featuring Wisconsin business recruiters explaining why they desire to hire Wisconsin Private College graduates.

Employers spoke about the importance of college graduates for their workforce and the value these grads bring to their organizations and Wisconsin's economic growth and vitality.

[Watch Videos Here!](#)

Fall 2025 In-Person Counselor Workshops: Save the Dates

We're thrilled to welcome you back for our 2025–2026 in-person workshops, now with a new format designed to make your experience even more valuable and engaging.

Workshop Dates and Locations

- **Lawrence University** – Tuesday, October 21, 2025 (morning)
- **Beloit College** – Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (morning)

[More Info Here](#)

[Visit Wisconsin's 20 Independent Colleges!](#)

608-256-7761
editor@waicu.org
wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org

Connect With Us



Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges & Universities | 122 W. Washington Ave. Suite 700 |
Madison, WI 53703-2723 US

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