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# WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

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## Concordia University Student Committed to Serving Others

Appleton native Mikayla Dolan is a senior at Concordia University Wisconsin, double majoring in psychology and social work. She plans to graduate in May 2026 and



**Mikayla Dolan**

*"Thanks to support from programs like the Wisconsin Grant, I have been able to focus on my academics and work to achieve my goals. Without the grants I received, higher education would have been inaccessible to me."*

attend law school following graduation, pursuing a career rooted in advocacy and public policy.

Her path began with a question. After meeting a clinical psychologist at church, Mikayla became curious about how the brain and behavior intersect and how that understanding could help people navigate difficult seasons of life. Psychology felt like a natural starting point.

As she progressed in her studies, however, she began to sense that understanding individu-

als was only part of the whole picture.

While psychology helped her explore how people think and process the world, social work invited her to examine the systems and structures surrounding them. She added social work as a second major, drawn to its emphasis on advocacy, community engagement, and practical experience.

"It's a wide field with so many different ways to help people," she says. "The program has helped me grow in empathy and confidence in advocating for others." Together, the two disciplines sharpened her thinking and clarified her direction.

"The program has strengthened my critical thinking and research skills," Mikayla says. "The professors genuinely care about my growth and development."

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## MSOE Engineering Major Relishes New Experiences

"Sometimes, the most exciting opportunities come from staying open to new experiences," says Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) senior Myles Pratt.

Myles has kept an open mind throughout his time at MSOE as a mechanical engineering major. The broad applications and versatility of the program have provided him with the opportunity to apply the problem-solving skills and understanding of physical systems he has learned through a variety of internships.

Myles decided to delay his graduation by a semester to pursue an internship at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for the entire spring semester of 2025. He worked within the integrated guidance, navigation, and control analysis branch developing tools for simulations to evaluate performances of Low Earth Orbit space station systems.



**Myles Pratt**

*"The Wisconsin Grant Program allowed me to attend MSOE and pursue my education. Because of this support, I've been able to focus on my academics, research, and student organizations."*

Myles went on to support NASA in another internship at their Marshall Space Flight Center Test Laboratory in Huntsville, Alabama the following summer, working in the space exploration division, special test equipment branch. After his time with NASA, he is headed to another industry giant.

Myles will travel to California this summer to intern with NVIDIA Corporation, the world leader in accelerated computing, before completing his final semester at MSOE in the fall of 2026. He will intern within NVIDIA's Systems and Products Team where he'll complete mechanical design work

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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.

## Mikayla Dolan

That steady encouragement gave her confidence to step into leadership early. As president of the Psych Club, she helped organize Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Week, creating space for conversations that matter. During a fall service-learning project, she and fellow students prepared tie blankets for the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center, where she now interns. The work connects classroom learning with tangible care.

Mikayla's journey is made possible, in part, through financial aid she receives through the Wisconsin Grant Program. "Thanks to support from programs like the Wisconsin Grant, I have been able to focus on my academics and work to achieve my goals of serving others. Without the grants I received, higher education would have been inaccessible to me."

Through her internship and coursework, Mikayla discovered a passion for working at what she describes as a "macro level." "I found out that I really love public policy, organization, and helping people on a really big, macro level," she explains.

Law school became the clear next step. Her father, a pastor, had long encouraged the idea. When she shared her plans, he was ready with advice and resources, providing a clear affirmation of her calling.

Outside the classroom, Mikayla's calendar stays full. She serves on the Campus Ministry Leadership Team as Service to Milwaukee Coordinator and Faith Associate in Wittenberg Hall.

## Myles Pratt

supporting enclosure design and cooling systems.

"I'm excited to work alongside talented engineers at a world-renowned company and gain hands-on experience in cutting-edge product development," says Myles. "It feels incredibly rewarding to have such a unique opportunity at a company that isn't traditionally associated with mechanical engineers. I'm hopeful this can help open the door for more MSOE mechanical engineers at NVIDIA in the future."

"The Wisconsin Grant Program allowed me to attend MSOE and pursue my education," he adds. "Because of this support, I've been able to focus on my academics, research, and student organizations."

Through his MSOE education, Myles gained the fundamental knowledge and real-world engineering experience needed to successfully pursue and secure internships at such renowned companies. "These projects helped me build practical skills and gave me meaningful experiences to speak about during interviews. The MSOE Career Connections Center interview preparation resources and resume guidance also played a big role in helping me feel confident and prepared," he adds.

Originally from West Allis, Myles enjoys hiking, sailing, and snowboarding. He is interested in working in the aerospace or tech industry upon graduation.

## FACT OF THE MONTH

**Each year, Wisconsin has 73,095 job openings that require colleges degrees for entry. But not enough college graduates.**

Source: DWD, Long-term Occupational Employment Projection, 2022-2023.