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Bellin College Student Inspired by Care, Driven to Give Back

Kara Gerard discovered her passion for healthcare at a young age as a patient herself in Green Bay. She was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was ten years old. While kids her age were worrying about school or their own friends, Kara was also learning how to manage a chronic illness.

Her healthcare team growing up helped Kara learn how to manage her diabetes and explained things in a way that put her at ease.

"While the experience was often overwhelming and intimidating, it became the foundation for my desire to pursue a career in healthcare," she said. Like the comfort and patience shown to her as a child, Kara hopes to help others too. She realized she had a passion for pediatric echocardiography at Bellin College and wants to help children and families navigate their own health.

Kara Gerard

"This grant has given me the opportunity to continue pursuing my passion for sonography and work toward a career where I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those with a condition."

At the college, Kara has been able to get hands-on experiences to learn and delve into her field during clinicals. She loves the relationships and confidence she has built through her relationships with instructors.

Having to juggle work, studies, and diabetes has taught Kara how to adapt and stay determined. There are days when blood sugar fluctuations, medical appointments, or physical fatigue make balancing academics more difficult.

She has excelled, earning a spot on the dean's list every semester and becoming a Peer Academic Coach for Bellin College's Center for Academic Success, Teaching, and Learning Excellence (CASTLE). She also participated in a mission trip to Virginia to provide free medical imaging services.

Adding financial worries to Kara's studies can make her education more challenging, but the Wisconsin Grant has made a significant difference. It helped her with the expenses

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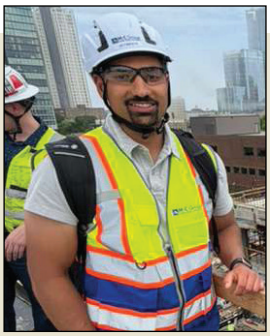
MSOE Student Makes a Mark on Campus

Civil engineering senior Jatinder Singh is making his mark at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), and it's one that will be seen by the entire campus community. Jatinder spent the summer as a project management intern with MC Group, which is serving as the owner's representative for the new Robert D. Kern Engineering Innovation Center that is under construction on MSOE's campus.

The Engineering Innovation Center is a four-story, 97,000-square-foot academic building that will support collaborative learning across all disciplines, with a focus on integrating AI and machine learning into all of MSOE's engineering programs. The building is slated to open in fall 2027, which is after Jatinder graduates, but he's grateful to be able to contribute to a project that will be enjoyed by the MSOE community.

"It feels really special to be involved with this project," said Jatinder. "Since I am a student at MSOE, it gives the work more meaning because I can see how the project will benefit the campus community."

Through his internship, Jatinder spent his days attending project meetings, reviewing schedules, tracking project budgets and costs, reviewing testing and field reports, and preparing weekly and monthly reports to document project progress. Jatinder shared that his MSOE classes helped him understand the technical and management side of construction and gave him a strong foundation that he was able to apply directly to his internship.



Jatinder Singh

"I was grateful to receive the Wisconsin Grant to pursue my education at MSOE. It's good to know that there are programs available to help Wisconsin students pursue higher education and achieve their goals."

"My favorite part was getting to see how a major construction project is managed from the owner's side," said Jatinder. "It was really valuable to sit in on meetings and see how scheduling, budgeting, coordination and fiew ld progress all come together on an active jobsite."

Jatinder's internship experience went beyond the blueprints and budgets. He also gained valuable

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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 53,000 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 help 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.

Kara Gerard

that come with the degree and made her education more attainable.

"This grant has allowed me to focus more on my education rather than worrying as much about the financial side of college," Kara said. "It has given me the opportunity to continue pursuing my passion for sonography and work toward a career where I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children."

Kara plans to graduate from Bellin College with a degree in Cardiovascular Diagnostic Medical Sonography in 2027. She hopes to work in a children's hospital or clinic as a pediatric sonographer, combining her interest with echocardiography to care for children and their families.

"I hope to provide others with the same sense of comfort and trust that I received as a child," she said.

Jatinder Singh

real-world experience collaborating with colleagues, networking and effectively communicating with contractors, engineers and project stakeholders. These experiences pushed him to be a stronger engineer, problem-solver and leader.

"This experience helped me prepare for a career in civil engineering and construction management by giving me real-world exposure to how projects are planned, coordinated, and delivered."

Originally from Oak Creek, Wisconsin, Jatinder is thankful the Wisconsin Grant supported his journey to MSOE and empowered him to focus on his schoolwork. "I was grateful to receive the Wisconsin Grant to pursue my education at MSOE," said Jatinder. "It's good to know that there are programs available to help Wisconsin students pursue higher education and achieve their goals. The Wisconsin Grant has helped reduce the financial burden associated with pursuing higher education and has allowed me to focus on my education and professional development while pursuing my civil engineering degree at MSOE."

As Jatinder looks ahead to graduation this spring, he hopes to land his dream job working in construction management. "I would like to be involved in managing complex construction projects where I can use both my civil engineering background and the project management experience I have gained through my internship."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Six out of ten WAICU new bachelor's degree graduates work in Wisconsin.

WAICU Institutional Survey, 2024-2025