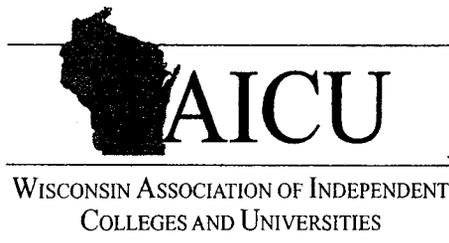


ALVERNO COLLEGE
BELOIT COLLEGE
CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
CARROLL UNIVERSITY
CARTHAGE COLLEGE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE
LAKELAND COLLEGE
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
MARIAN UNIVERSITY



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE
NORTHLAND COLLEGE
RIPON COLLEGE
ST. NORBERT COLLEGE
SILVER LAKE COLLEGE
VITERBO UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE COLLEGES WORKING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

RECEIVED

December 13, 2011

DEC 15 2011

10-08

The Honorable Shirley S. Abrahamson
Chief Justice
State of Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIRLEY S. ABRAHAMSON
SUPREME COURT

Dear Chief Justice Abrahamson:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2011 and for your kind words about Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities. Our mission statement is: "Wisconsin's private colleges working together to advance educational opportunity." WAICU and all of its members believe that a quality education develops the whole person, not only for careers, but also for civic life.

Internships have always been an important part of the educational experience at WAICU members. Indeed, the most recent edition of the *Independent* (attached) focuses on the association's nonprofit internship program. WAICU and its members are always looking for new ways to be of service in our community, state, and nation.

I would be pleased to meet with you to explore the opportunities. I will call to arrange an appointment.

With warm wishes and gratitude . . .

Sincerely,

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President

C: All justices
Julie Rich, Supreme Court Commissioner
Clerk of Supreme Court – Rules Petition 10-08 file

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)

FALL 2011 VOL. 43 NO. 3



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Alverno College
Beloit College
Cardinal Stritch University
Carroll University
Carthage College
Concordia University Wisconsin
Edgewood College
Lakeland College
Lawrence University
Marian University
Marquette University
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mount Mary College
Northland College
Ripon College
St. Norbert College
Silver Lake College of the Holy Family
Viterbo University
Wisconsin Lutheran College

Why does the nonprofit sector matter?

WAICU and all 20 member colleges and universities are private, nonprofit organizations. Most people rightly understand this to mean that we do not receive direct operating support from the taxpayers. Of course, private does not mean exclusive or elitist. Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities enroll and graduate larger percentages of low-income, first-generation, and minority students than do our public university counterparts.

WAICU's mission is "Wisconsin's private colleges and universities working together to advance educational opportunity." Wisconsin's future in the "knowledge economy" is directly tied to the educational attainment of its citizens. WAICU and WAICU members are doing our part and, in this sense, although we are private institutions, we are serving an important public purpose. So, what is the difference?

The nonprofit sector is rooted firmly in the American tradition of volunteerism and neighborliness. From the tribal confederations of native peoples to the first Thanksgiving to old-fashioned barn raisings to the freedom of assembly guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution to today's "social media" communities, observers from Alexis de Tocqueville on have noted that the American people are always forming associations with a purpose. And all of this nonprofit activity matters.

The nonprofit sector matters because it results in more freedom. Anyone can enlist in a cause, can organize, and can get things done. We live in a majoritarian democracy; the majority prevails, but the minority is still free to organize to achieve its own purposes—whether those purposes involve chamber music, curing disease, or advancing educational opportunity.

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WAICU internship program benefits students and nonprofits

This summer, sixteen private college students from across Wisconsin experienced the nonprofit world first-hand through the WAICU College-to-Work nonprofit internship program.

With internships covering a range of experiences from graphic design to conservation education, the students were immersed in organizations that exemplify the rich tapestry of Wisconsin nonprofit organizations.

Grants from two Wisconsin-based foundations make this unique partnership between students and nonprofit organizations possible.

Each student intern agreed to work 400 hours over 10 summer weeks. At the end of the summer, students received a stipend and scholarship in combination totalling \$5,000.

The nonprofit organizations received a "free" intern for the summer, which allowed the groups to pursue many core-mission initiatives that may not otherwise be possible given the nonprofits' limited

budgets.

"Thanks to this great collaboration with the private colleges, we were finally able to redesign and update our website to better serve our clients, which we have wanted to do for years," said Dan Wilcox, Alzheimer's Support Center of Rock County.

The students and their internship mentors first met earlier this spring at the Milwaukee County Zoo for the WAICU Nonprofit Institute. The training day gave interns and mentors a chance to meet and network with other nonprofit leaders, served as an introduction to the nonprofit sector, and included team building and goal setting exercises for the interns and their mentors.

Mentors shared their diverse and distinctive leadership experiences in the nonprofit world on topics including organizational governance, volunteer engagement, and academic preparation

continued on page 6



Bridget Hirthe, a philosophy major at Alverno, worked on her leadership skills as a summer intern at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

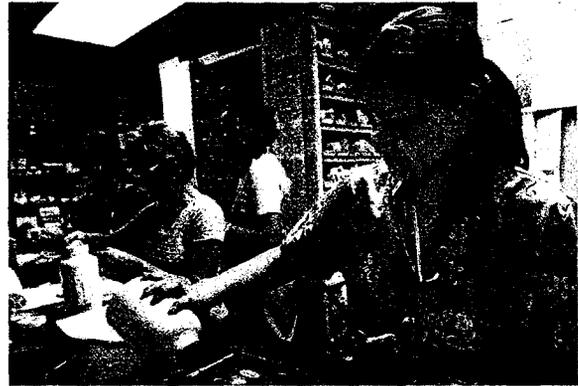
Summer intern program benefits students and nonprofits *continued from page 1*

for a nonprofit career.

As summer ended and the students returned to college, they did so with new perspectives on work, career, and their futures. The sixteen students were enriched by the unique perspectives gained during their internships and carried forward an affirmed sense of mission-driven service and the benefits of volunteerism.

Nicole Shavlik, from Lakeland College, worked at the Holiday House in Manitowoc helping individuals with disabilities. "I never thought it would have such a huge impact on me," said the senior, "and, to be honest, this internship may have changed the whole direction of my life."

Plans are underway to continue the program next summer. ■



Katie Schmidt, an Alverno College senior nursing major, interned at HealthNet in Janesville.

Protect Financial Aid campaign benefits thousands of Wisconsin students

In late June, Wisconsin's biennial budget for 2011-2013 became law.

In the face of a state deficit totaling more than \$3 billion, the final budget contained no cuts in funding for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant or in the means-tested student aids programs for Wisconsin students at the UW or technical colleges. The budget had good news for all students receiving need-based financial aid. It was also good news for the state.

Wisconsin lags the country in the percentage of its population with a college degree. To be competitive in the "Knowledge Economy" and to turn our economy around, Wisconsin needs to invest in "home-grown" talent. The good news is that this budget signals that our state is doing just that.

Thousands of students, parents, and community leaders joined in the campaign called Protect Financial Aid (PFA). PFA was a partnership led by the 20 presidents on the WAICU Board, the United Council of UW Students (140,000 members), and the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (144 members).

PFA utilized a website, online petition, and a social media campaign and also garnered traditional media coverage of the effort.

In addition to PFA effort, WAICU also sponsored its traditional WAICU Students' Day at the Capitol. Registrations this spring totaled over 400 students.

During this year's Students' Day event,

students heard from WAICU president Dr. Rolf Wegenke and state legislative leaders, and had a crash course presented by WAICU staff on how to convey effectively students' messages on financial aid to policy makers. Students then proceeded to the Capitol for face-to-face meetings with their hometown legislators. The meetings were organized by WAICU staff.

WAICU-member colleges and universities found even more creative ways to encourage the entire campus community to get involved. A number of WAICU members organized rallies of students, faculty, and staff on their own campuses, inviting local legislators, opinion leaders, and the news media.

Other WAICU members energized their boards of trustees to contact legislators, and engaged their alumni/ae in the overall Protect Financial Aid campaign. One college even saw faculty and staff join their students in the Capitol for WAICU Students' Day. Student newspapers and campus organizations identified a multitude of ways to support and grow involvement in the Protect Financial Aid campaign.

This extraordinary outpouring of effort was necessary to face down one of the biggest challenges in the history of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. The outcome represents an enormous achievement when you consider that the budget proposal contained billions

of dollars in cuts to other state programs. Holding funding level may not sound like much of an accomplishment, but student aid in other states has been singled out for cuts as high as seventy-five percent.

Wisconsin's commitment to need-based financial aid represents a partnership with WAICU and its members' commitment to need-based financial aid, as we work together to make higher education affordable and accessible to all Wisconsin students.

WAICU, on behalf of our 60,000 students, is grateful to the Governor and the Legislature.

Now, we begin again. There are new students—with greater need—every year. There are also newly elected legislators.

"PFA is all about education," said WAICU president Dr. Rolf Wegenke, "and education is what we do best." ■

Do you need additional copies of the WAICU 2012 Guide to Admission and Financial Aid? Call WAICU at 1-800-4-DEGREE to order more.