

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WAICU Students' Day

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) today announces WAICU Students' Day. The day is a grassroots advocacy event in support of the Wisconsin Grant, which provides need-based financial aid to Wisconsin students attending a Wisconsin college or university. There are separate appropriations for students at nonprofit colleges, as well as for students at UW, WTCS, and tribal colleges.

Approximately 150 students and supporters from Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities will participate in WAICU Students' Day. Participants will begin the day with a civic engagement workshop and then meet with state legislators at the capitol. Many of the participants are recipients of the Wisconsin Grant who will share their experiences of how the funding has made a difference in their educational opportunities and pathways to successful careers.

Funding for the Wisconsin Grant in the state budget has received historic bipartisan support. Governor Walker has recommended an increase of just over \$2.6 million (approximately 5 percent over the biennium) to the Wisconsin Grant (private, nonprofit appropriation), bringing the biennial total to \$56.4 million.

Dr. Rolf Wegenke, president of WAICU stated, "We are grateful to Governor Walker and the supporters of student financial aid in the State Legislature. We know that student aid – targeted to those who need it most – is the tried and true way to increase higher education attainment and help Wisconsin meet its workforce needs. An investment in these students is an investment in Wisconsin's future economy."

For more information on the Wisconsin Grant private, nonprofit appropriation, please visit www.wisconsin-grants.org.

WAICU's 24 member institutions include: Alverno College, Bellin College, Beloit College, Cardinal Stritch University, Carroll University, Carthage College, Columbia College of Nursing, Concordia University Wisconsin, Edgewood College, Lakeland University, Lawrence University, Marian University, Marquette University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Mount Mary University, Nashotah House, Northland College, Ripon College, St. Norbert College, Silver Lake College, Viterbo University, and Wisconsin Lutheran College.

About WAICU:

The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) is the official organization of Wisconsin's 24 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. WAICU is dedicated to expanding educational opportunity for students and is nationally recognized for its innovative programming to control college costs and for its partnerships with employers to provide skilled graduates.

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