

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WAICU-member students and supporters meet with state legislators**



*MADISON, Wis.* – Approximately 100 students and supporters of student financial aid participated in WAICU Students’ Day yesterday, March 29, 2017, at the state capitol. The advocacy day was organized by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU). Most of the participants were recipients of the Wisconsin Grant who shared with legislators and their staff stories of how financial aid has helped them to achieve their college and career goals.

The Wisconsin Grant is the state’s targeted, need-based student financial aid program, which helps over 10,000 students at Wisconsin private, nonprofit colleges and universities pursue a quality education. Funding for the Wisconsin Grant in the state budget has received historical 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). There are separate appropriations (also slated for a 5 percent increase) for students at the UW, WTCS, and tribal colleges.

“We are thankful to have had the opportunity for our students to tell their personal success stories to their own legislators at the state capitol. These hard-working grant recipients, many of whom are first-generation college students, are very deserving of financial aid and demonstrate the value of the Wisconsin Grant program,” said Dr. Rolf Wegenke, president of WAICU. “They give a great deal back to their communities and are important contributors to Wisconsin’s future workforce.”

To develop a competitive economy, Wisconsin must increase the educational attainment of the state’s population; by 2020, 62 percent of the jobs of the future will require a postsecondary education. Investing in aid directly to students is a proven (and targeted) strategy for Wisconsin.

For more information on the Wisconsin Grant private, nonprofit appropriation and Wisconsin Grant recipients, please visit [www.wisconsin-grants.org](http://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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