

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

College Access & Affordability Emphasized in 2017 Wisconsin Private College Week

Madison, Wis. – July 10, 2017 – The 21st annual Wisconsin Private College Week, sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, is underway this week, July 10-15, 2017. Prospective students and their families are invited to visit Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges across the state. During Wisconsin Private College Week, visitors have the opportunity to tour campuses, learn about majors, attend information sessions, discuss financial aid opportunities, meet with admissions counselors, and connect with current students.

“Wisconsin's private nonprofit colleges and universities are committed to making college affordable. The key question everyone should ask is, “which college or university is best for me?” said Dr. Rolf Wegenke, president of WAICU. He noted that 99 percent of first-year students attending Wisconsin private colleges and universities receive financial aid (a combination of federal, state, and institutional aid) making out-of-pocket costs comparable to those charged to students attending public institutions.

For the ninth year in a row, the average out-of-pocket cost, or net tuition (price minus aid), at Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges has held steady at \$5,500 or less. Another important factor in keeping the cost of higher education down is the time it takes to complete a degree, and Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges are leading the way in four-year graduation rates. Students at private colleges have a 68 percent better chance of graduating in four years than if they attend a public university. The excellent graduation rates are attributed to smaller classes, more personalized attention, and lots of opportunities for interactive, hands-on learning. Wisconsin Private College Week participants are encouraged to take a “road trip” to find the campus that best fits their educational and career needs. Visiting students will be eligible to win one of two iPads, with one entry for each campus they visit.

Wisconsin's private, nonprofit campuses 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.

To learn more about Wisconsin Private College Week or to arrange a campus visit, go to:
<http://www.wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org/visit>.

About WAICU:

The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) is the official organization of Wisconsin's 24 private, nonprofit colleges and universities and their more than 57,000 students. 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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