

DISCUSSION/ACTION
August 29, 2006

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #07-07

2007-2009 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES**

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



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

August 21, 2005

Ms. Connie Hutchison
Executive Secretary
Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board
P.O. Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Dear Ms. Hutchison:

The Governor and the legislature recently enacted a tuition remission program for veterans. Recognizing that the lack of funding put an undue burden on the public institutions and other students enrolling in them, the legislature has invited a funding plan.

The Governor and the legislature have put their focus on the veterans. The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) urges HEAB to do the same. Wisconsin veterans attending a Wisconsin college or university should not be treated in a discriminatory manner by the State of Wisconsin. These men and women have served us and deserve fair treatment.

I urge that HEAB's budget recommendation for the State Veterans Grant adhere to the precedent of all current taxpayer-funded student aid programs administered in the State of Wisconsin. These programs are available to students in all sectors:

- Academic Excellence (WAICU, UW, WTCS)
- Talent Incentive Program Grant (WAICU, UW, WTCS, tribal colleges)
- Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant (WAICU, WTCS, with the taxpayer-funded Lawton grant program for UW students)
- Hearing and Visually Handicapped Student Grant (WAICU, UW, WTCS, tribal colleges)
- Minority Teacher Loan (WAICU and UW colleges offering teaching degrees)
- Nursing Student Loan (WAICU, UW, WTCS)
- Teacher of the Visually Impaired Loan (Any college or university that offers programs for teachers of visually impaired students)

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Ms. Connie Hutchison
August 21, 2006
page 2

While there are separate appropriations for the WHEG-UW, WHEG-Technical College and Tuition Grant programs, these programs are structured to ensure that all Wisconsin students with financial need have a base of support, regardless of their choice of college or university. The Governor has enunciated similar principles for the proposed Wisconsin Covenant. To enact a discriminatory program not only breaks precedent, it sends a message to veterans that undermines the intent of the program's sponsors.

Today, WAICU's 20 members enroll approximately 795 veterans who we believe would be eligible for the State Veterans Grant. The individual grant for these students should be capped at UW-Madison tuition, as currently reflected in the formula for the Tuition Grant.

Most returning veterans are non-traditional students, and WAICU members have a track record of meeting the educational needs of adults. WAICU pioneered night, weekend, and on-the-job baccalaureate programs. Over 40 percent of our 56,000 students are age 25 or older. Returning veterans who attend private colleges have served their country and are taxpayers, too. Any state-funded program that helps recognize the service of these veterans should be available to ALL Wisconsin students.

Wisconsin veterans' expectations are high and so are mine for a fair outcome.

Sincerely,

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President