

**INFORMATION**  
**October 22, 2021**

**HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD**

**BOARD REPORT #22-10**

**2020-21 MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
ANNUAL REPORT**



State of Wisconsin  
Higher Educational Aids Board

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September 27, 2021

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, Room 308 East  
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Howard Marklein, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, Room 316  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

Enclosed is the 2020-21 Annual Status Report for the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant. Submission of the report is in compliance with Section 39.44 (5) of the Wisconsin Statutes, which requires an annual report on the effectiveness of this program.

If you have any questions about this report or about the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Program, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [connie.hutchison@wi.gov](mailto:connie.hutchison@wi.gov) or phone at 267-2206.

Sincerely,

Connie Hutchison, PhD  
Executive Secretary

CC: Senator Ballweg

Senator Kooyenga

Senator Felzkowski

Senator Stroebel

Senator Bernier

Senator Erpenbach

Senator Johnson

Representative Neubauer

Representative J. Rodriguez

Representative Loudenbeck

Representative Kurtz

Representative Katsma

Representative Zimmerman

Representative Goyke

David Loppnow, Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Amanda Mott, Department of Administration

Joel Brennan, Department of Administration

Sara Hynek, Department of Administration

Erin Probst, Legislative Fiscal Bureau

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT**

**2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

State of Wisconsin  
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**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT  
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The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant (MURG) Program was established by the State of Wisconsin Legislature in the 1985-87 biennial budget. The first award was made in the 1986-87 academic year. Minority Undergraduate Retention Grants are awarded to Wisconsin resident minority undergraduates, excluding first year students, enrolled at least half-time in Wisconsin Technical College System schools, non-profit independent colleges/universities, and tribal colleges.

Awards are based on financial need, with a minimum grant of \$250 and a maximum grant of \$2,500 per year. According to statute, a minority student is defined as a student who is a Black American, American Indian, Hispanic, or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam admitted to the United States after December 31, 1975. If eligible, a student may receive the grant for up to eight semesters or 12 quarters.

Funds are allocated to the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Independent/Tribal Colleges and Universities based on the prior year's minority student population as reported by each participating school. For the 2020-21 academic year, sixteen technical colleges, twenty-three non-profit colleges/universities, and both tribal colleges received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allocation. The University of Wisconsin System Administration has a similar program, the Lawton Grant, for students attending a University of Wisconsin institution.

During the 2020-21 academic year, 719 students received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award. 233 grant recipients attended a non-profit, independent college/university or tribal college, and 486 recipients attended a Wisconsin Technical College. To gauge the effectiveness of the program, surveys were sent to both the participating schools and the grant recipients. Results of the participating school survey are found on page 2, and the grant recipient survey results are found on page 7.

The graph and tables throughout this report detail the 2020-21 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant program:

- Table I: Educational Progress of Grant Recipients as Reported by Participating Schools
- Table II: Top Five Colleges or Universities Based on Funding Provided to Students
- Tables III and V: Spending by Independent/Tribal Schools and WTCS
- Tables IV and VI: Recipient Demographics for Independent/Tribal Schools and WTCS
- Graph I: 2020-21 Student Minority Populations as Reported by Participating Schools
- Table VII: 2020-21 Minority Retention Grant Recipient Survey Results

The data collected and the results of the grant recipient survey demonstrate that the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant is highly successful. Participating schools reported that 75.38% of grant recipients either completed their degree/certificate programs or will continue to work towards degree/certificate completion during the 2021-22 academic year. Ninety-five percent of the grant recipients who responded to the survey indicated that they either earned a degree or certificate during the 2020-21 academic year or will return to school to continue to pursue their educational goals. In addition, 92.37% of the recipients indicated that they planned to spend the majority of their working life in the state of Wisconsin.

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TABLE I: Educational Progress of Grant Recipients as Reported by Participating Schools**

**Independent Colleges and Universities/Technical Colleges/Tribal Colleges**

<b>COMBINED DATA:</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 20-21	269	37.41%
Students enrolled for 21-22 and continuing toward degree/certificate	273	37.97%
Students not enrolled for 21-22 who did not complete degree/certificate	177	24.62%
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/TRIBAL COLLEGES:</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 20-21	69	29.61%
Students enrolled for 21-22 and continuing toward degree/certificate	129	55.37%
Students not enrolled for 21-22 who did not complete degree/certificate	35	15.02%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM SCHOOLS:</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 20-21	200	41.15%
Students enrolled for 21-22 and continuing toward degree/certificate	144	29.63%
Students not enrolled for 21-22 who did not complete degree/certificate	142	29.22%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** The students reported as “students not enrolled for 21-22 who did not complete degree/certificate” were not enrolled in the reporting institution at the time the data were collected. The students may have enrolled at a later date or enrolled in a different institution.

**TABLE II: TOP FIVE COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES BASED ON FUNDING PROVIDED TO STUDENTS**

<b>COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>DOLLARS SPENT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF AWARDS</b>	<b>AVERAGE AWARD</b>
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 174,800	97	\$ 1,802
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$ 64,620	36	\$ 1,795
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 52,740	150	\$ 352
ALVERNO COLLEGE	\$ 49,500	25	\$ 1,980
WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 37,160	31	\$ 1,199
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 378,820</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>\$ 1,117</b>

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TABLE III: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR INDEPENDENT/TRIBAL SCHOOLS**

<b>COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>DOLLARS SPENT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF AWARDS</b>	<b>AVERAGE AWARD</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT</b>
ALVERNO COLLEGE	\$ 49,500	25	\$ 1,980	12.82%
BELLIN COLLEGE	\$ 700	1	\$ 700	0.18%
BELOIT COLLEGE	\$ 2,685	2	\$ 1,343	0.70%
CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY	\$ 27,240	12	\$ 2,270	7.05%
CARROLL UNIVERSITY	\$ 17,600	16	\$ 1,100	4.56%
CARTHAGE COLLEGE	\$ 24,640	10	\$ 2,464	6.38%
COLLEGE OF THE MENOMINEE NATION	\$ 16,375	18	\$ 910	4.24%
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	\$ 17,750	8	\$ 2,219	4.60%
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE	\$ 16,350	8	\$ 2,044	4.23%
HERZING	\$ 15,805	9	\$ 1,756	4.09%
LAC COURTE OREILLES	\$ 8,945	10	\$ 895	2.32%
LAKELAND COLLEGE	\$ 18,790	13	\$ 1,445	4.87%
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY	\$ 3,675	3	\$ 1,225	0.95%
MARANATHA	\$ 2,500	1	\$ 2,500	0.65%
MARIAN UNIVERSITY	\$ 13,920	9	\$ 1,547	3.61%
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$ 64,620	36	\$ 1,795	16.74%
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN	\$ 11,530	8	\$ 1,441	2.99%
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING	\$ 17,200	8	\$ 2,150	4.45%
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE	\$ 30,815	17	\$ 1,813	7.98%
NORTHLAND COLLEGE	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0%
RIPON COLLEGE	\$ 4,975	6	\$ 829	1.29%
ST NORBERT COLLEGE	\$ 10,440	5	\$ 2,088	2.70%
VITERBO UNIVERSITY	\$ 5,270	3	\$ 1,757	1.36%
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE	\$ 4,800	5	\$ 960	1.24%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 386,125</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>\$ 1,657</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2020-21 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipient:**

“The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant was important to me because every dollar counts when you are attending school as a single parent.”

---Tom, *Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College*

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TABLE IV: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR TRIBAL AND INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS**

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
<b>YEAR IN SCHOOL</b>				
2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 108,749	66	\$ 1,648	28.16%
3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 178,486	102	\$ 1,750	46.23%
4 <sup>TH</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 86,130	56	\$ 1,538	22.31%
5 <sup>TH</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 12,760	9	\$ 1,418	3.30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 386,125</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>\$ 1,657</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>STATUS OF RECIPIENTS</b>				
DEPENDENT	\$ 267,789	155	\$ 1,728	69.35%
INDEPENDENT	\$ 118,336	78	\$ 1,517	30.65%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 386,125</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>\$ 1,657</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP</b>				
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	\$ 178,394	99	\$ 1,802	46.20%
AMERICAN INDIAN	\$ 34,981	33	\$ 1,060	9.06%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	\$ 21,043	13	\$ 1,619	5.45%
HISPANIC	\$ 151,707	88	\$ 1,724	39.29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 386,125</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>\$ 1,657</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY SECTOR</b>				
INDEPENDENT	\$ 360,805	205	\$ 1,760	93.44%
TRIBAL	\$ 25,320	28	\$ 904	6.56%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 386,125</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>\$ 1,657</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2020-21 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:**

“Without this grant, I would have struggled in my studies. Covid was a struggle enough and being able to focus on my mental health instead of finances allowed me to graduate.”

---Caitlyn, Carroll University

“I attend an expensive school, so any amount I can get to help pay for my tuition is great and I appreciate it a lot.”

---Mao, Marquette University

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TABLE V: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

<b>WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM</b>	<b>DOLLARS SPENT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF AWARDS</b>	<b>AVERAGE AWARD</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT</b>
BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 8,045	10	\$ 805	1.87%
CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 30,000	16	\$ 1,875	6.95%
FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 26,345	52	\$ 836	6.11%
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 52,740	150	\$ 352	12.23%
INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 3,765	3	\$ 1,255	0.87%
LAKESHORE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 6,820	10	\$ 682	1.58%
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 33,090	46	\$ 719	7.67%
MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 3,565	8	\$ 446	0.83%
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 174,800	97	\$ 1,802	40.52%
MORAINES PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 16,095	18	\$ 894	3.73%
NICOLET AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 4,068	6	\$ 678	0.94%
NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 3,155	6	\$ 519	0.73%
NORTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 16,190	17	\$ 952	3.75%
SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,730	1	\$ 1,730	0.40%
WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 37,160	31	\$ 1,199	8.61%
WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 13,850	15	\$ 923	3.21%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 431,418</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>\$ 888</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2020-21 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipient:**

“This grant was very important to me and my family. The grant helped me finish school during this pandemic.”

*---Precious, Milwaukee Area Technical College*

“I have a child and I otherwise pay for school out of pocket, so receiving this grant allowed me to work less and focus more on my child and school.”

*---Peighton, Gateway Technical College*



**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

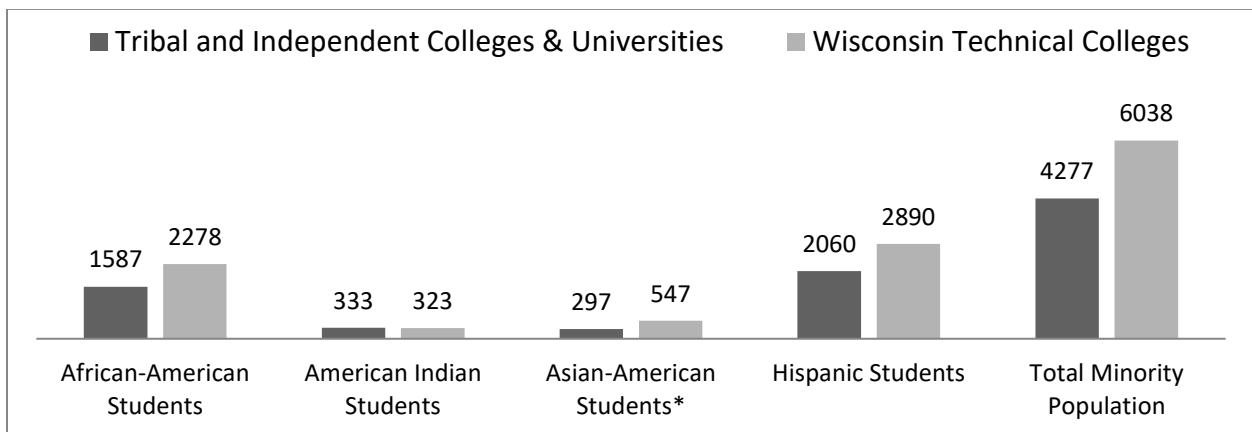
**TABLE VI: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
<b>YEAR IN SCHOOL</b>				
2 <sup>nd</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 338,687	365	\$ 928	78.51%
3 <sup>rd</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 74,017	87	\$ 851	17.16%
4 <sup>th</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 12,964	23	\$ 564	3.00%
5 <sup>th</sup> YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 5,750	11	\$ 523	1.33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 431,418</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>\$ 888</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>STATUS OF RECIPIENTS</b>				
DEPENDENT	\$ 104,785	135	\$ 776	24.29%
INDEPENDENT	\$ 326,633	351	\$ 931	75.71%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 431,418</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>\$ 888</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP</b>				
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	\$ 205,923	203	\$ 1,015	47.73%
AMERICAN INDIAN	\$ 28,955	36	\$ 804	6.71%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	\$ 55,439	62	\$ 894	12.85%
HISPANIC	\$ 141,101	185	\$ 763	32.71%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 431,418</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>\$ 888</b>	<b>100%</b>

**GRAPH I: 2020-21 STUDENT MINORITY POPULATIONS AT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

*Note: Population data collected from the 2020-21 allocation survey completed by participating schools.*

\* Per the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant statute, Asian-American students are defined as students of Cambodian, Laotian, or Vietnamese descent.



**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT  
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TABLE VII: 2020-21 MINORITY RETENTION GRANT RECIPIENT SURVEY RESULTS**

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
<b>How did the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award influence your decision to attend college during the 2020-21 academic year?</b>		
The award allowed me to attend school. Without it, I would not have been able to attend.	51	42.50%
The award positively influenced by decision to attend school. Without it, it would have been difficult for me to attend school.	53	44.17%
The award had no influence on my decision to attend school. Without it, I would have still attended school.	16	13.33%
<b>Did you earn a Bachelor, an Associate Degree, or a certificate during the 2020-21 academic year?</b>		
Yes	57	48.31%
No	61	51.69%
<b>If you did not earn a degree or certificate during the 2020-21 academic year, how soon do you anticipate earning a degree or certificate?</b>		
2021-22 academic year	37	60.66%
2022-23 academic year	13	21.31%
2023-24 academic year	8	13.11%
I do not plan on completing a degree or certificate	0	0.00%
Other (please explain):	3	4.92%
<b>If you did NOT earn a degree or certificate during the 2020-21 academic year, will you be attending a college or university during the 2021-22 academic year?</b>		
Yes	59	96.72%
Enrollment Status:                      Full-time: 45                      Part-time: 14		
No	2	3.28%
<b>Were you employed during the 2020-21 academic year?</b>		
Yes	73	70.19%
32 hours/week or more: 30                      Less than 32 hours/week: 54		
No	31	29.81%
<b>Do you plan to be a Wisconsin resident for most of your working career?</b>		
Yes	109	92.37%
No	9	7.63%