

INFORMATION
November 8, 2024

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #25-06

23-24 MURG Program Report



State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board

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October 9, 2024

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 308 East
Madison, WI 53708

The Honorable Howard Marklein, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 316 East
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Representative Born and Senator Marklein:

Enclosed is the 2023-2024 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 Program, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at tammie.devooght@wisconsin.gov or phone at (608) 267-2206.

Sincerely,

Tammie DeVooght-Blaney
Executive Secretary

CC: Senator Stroebel
Senator Felzkowski
Senator Ballweg
Senator Testin
Senator Wimberger
Senator L. Johnson
Senator Roys
Representative Rodriguez
Representative Dallman

Representative Katsma
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MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

#25-06

State of Wisconsin
Higher Educational Aids Board
October 2024

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT
2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT
Higher Educational Aids Board**

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 2023-24 academic year, sixteen technical colleges, twenty 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 2023-24 academic year, 770 students received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award. 244 grant recipients attended a non-profit, independent college/university or tribal college, and 526 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 2023-24 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: 2023-24 Student Minority Populations as Reported by Participating Schools
- Table VII: 2023-24 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 77.92% of grant recipients either completed their degree/certificate programs or will continue to work towards degree/certificate completion during the 2024-25 academic year. Ninety-seven percent of the grant recipients who responded to the survey indicated that they either earned a degree or certificate during the 2023-24 academic year or will return to school to continue to pursue their educational goals. In addition, 92.73% of the recipients indicated that they planned to spend the majority of their working life in the State of Wisconsin.

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

Independent Colleges and Universities/Tribal Colleges/Technical Colleges

COMBINED DATA:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 23-24	319	41.43%
Students enrolled for 24-25 and continuing toward degree/certificate	281	36.49%
Students not enrolled for 24-25 who did not complete degree/certificate	170	22.08%
COMBINED TOTALS	770	100%
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/TRIBAL COLLEGES:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 23-24	85	34.84%
Students enrolled for 24-25 and continuing toward degree/certificate	125	51.23%
Students not enrolled for 24-25 who did not complete degree/certificate	34	13.93%
TOTALS	244	100%
TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM SCHOOLS:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 23-24	234	44.49%
Students enrolled for 24-25 and continuing toward degree/certificate	156	29.66%
Students not enrolled for 24-25 who did not complete degree/certificate	136	28.86%
TOTALS	526	100%

Note: The students reported as “students not enrolled for 24-25 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

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 150,840	172	\$ 877
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 89,710	142	\$ 632
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$ 82,305	43	\$ 1,914
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 76,500	93	\$ 823
ALVERNO COLLEGE	\$ 41,078	18	\$ 2,282
TOTALS	\$ 440,433	468	\$ 941

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TABLE III: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR INDEPENDENT/TRIBAL SCHOOLS

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
ALVERNO COLLEGE	\$ 41,078	18	\$ 2,282	10.90%
BELLIN COLLEGE	\$ 1,685	1	\$ 1,685	0.45%
BELOIT COLLEGE	\$ 5,724	3	\$ 1,901	1.52%
CARROLL UNIVERSITY	\$ 32,215	24	\$ 1,342	8.55%
CARTHAGE COLLEGE	\$ 24,850	11	\$ 2,259	6.59%
COLLEGE OF THE MENOMINEE NATION	\$ 6,960	18	\$ 387	1.85%
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0.00%
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE	\$ 14,255	7	\$ 2,036	3.78%
HERZING	\$ 25,480	12	\$ 2,123	6.76%
LAC COURTE OREILLES	\$ 10,100	20	\$ 505	2.68%
LAKELAND COLLEGE	\$ 7,745	9	\$ 861	2.05%
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY	\$ 3,595	3	\$ 1,198	0.95%
MARANATHA	\$ 1,235	4	\$ 309	0.33%
MARIAN UNIVERSITY	\$ 17,500	7	\$ 2,500	4.64%
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$ 82,305	43	\$ 1,914	21.83%
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN	\$ 11,340	10	\$ 1,134	3.01%
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING	\$ 19,980	8	\$ 2,498	5.30%
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE	\$ 34,685	20	\$ 1,734	9.20%
NORTHLAND COLLEGE	\$ 2,695	3	\$ 898	0.71%
RIPON COLLEGE	\$ 6,960	6	\$ 1,160	1.85%
ST NORBERT COLLEGE	\$ 14,145	6	\$ 2,358	3.75%
VITERBO UNIVERSITY	\$ 1,875	1	\$ 1,875	0.50%
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE	\$ 10,550	10	\$ 1,055	2.80%
TOTALS:	\$ 376,957	244	\$ 1,545	100%

2023-24 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipient:

“The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant provided the necessary financial stability to help me stay enrolled and focus on my studies, increasing my chances of completing my degree. Financial stress is a common reason for students dropping out.”

---Kalynn, *College of Menominee Nation*

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TABLE IV: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR TRIBAL AND INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
YEAR IN SCHOOL				
2 ND YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 109,579	81	\$ 1,353	29.07%
3 RD YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 115,969	70	\$ 1,657	30.76%
4 TH YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 122,324	76	\$ 1,610	32.45%
5 TH YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 29,085	17	\$ 1,711	7.72%
TOTAL	\$ 376,957	244	\$ 1,545	100%
STATUS OF RECIPIENTS				
DEPENDENT	\$ 264,941	156	\$ 1,698	70.28%
INDEPENDENT	\$ 112,016	88	\$ 1,273	29.72%
TOTAL	\$ 376,957	244	\$ 1,545	100%
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP				
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	\$ 121,486	71	\$ 1,711	32.23%
AMERICAN INDIAN	\$ 28,550	47	\$ 607	7.57%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	\$ 16,128	8	\$ 2,016	4.28%
HISPANIC	\$ 210,793	118	\$ 1,786	55.92%
TOTAL	\$ 376,957	244	\$ 1,545	100%
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY SECTOR				
INDEPENDENT	\$ 359,897	206	\$ 1,747	95.47%
TRIBAL	\$ 17,060	38	\$ 449	4.53%
TOTAL	\$ 376,957	244	\$ 1,545	100%

2023-24 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

“Receiving this Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant has helped immensely with pursuing my passion for music and a higher education. I am mostly paying for college by myself, and without these grants, it would not be possible for me to afford. As a low-income family, we have always valued education, and I am very grateful for all the opportunities that come along with it. I hope that one day, I will be able to pay it forward to people in similar situations.”

---Victor, *Lawrence University*

“The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allowed me to further my educational dream and start my nursing degree.”

---Magdalena, *Herzing University*

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TABLE V: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 6,855	11	\$ 623	1.64%
CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 23,960	11	\$ 2,178	5.73%
FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 16,525	27	\$ 612	3.95%
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 89,710	142	\$ 632	21.46%
LAKESHORE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 3,707	6	\$ 618	0.89%
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 150,840	172	\$ 877	36.08%
MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,427	5	\$ 285	0.34%
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 76,500	93	\$ 823	18.30%
MORAINÉ PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 5,275	7	\$ 754	1.26%
NICOLET AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,010	2	\$ 505	0.24%
NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,656	5	\$ 331	0.40%
NORTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 12,920	13	\$ 994	3.09%
NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 2,815	2	\$ 1,408	0.67%
SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,010	1	\$ 1,010	0.24%
WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 18,545	16	\$ 1,159	4.44%
WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 5,270	13	\$ 405	1.26%
TOTALS:	\$ 418,025	526	\$ 795	100%

2023-24 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipient:

“The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allows me as a single mother to continue my education.”

---Raquel, Milwaukee Area Technical College

“This Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant was crucial for me because it provided the financial support I needed to pursue my education. Without this grant, attending college would have been impossible due to financial constraints. This opportunity has transformed my life, allowing me to focus on my studies and personal growth without the burden of financial stress. I am profoundly grateful for this support and am fully committed to making the most of this opportunity.”

---Andrea, Gateway Technical College

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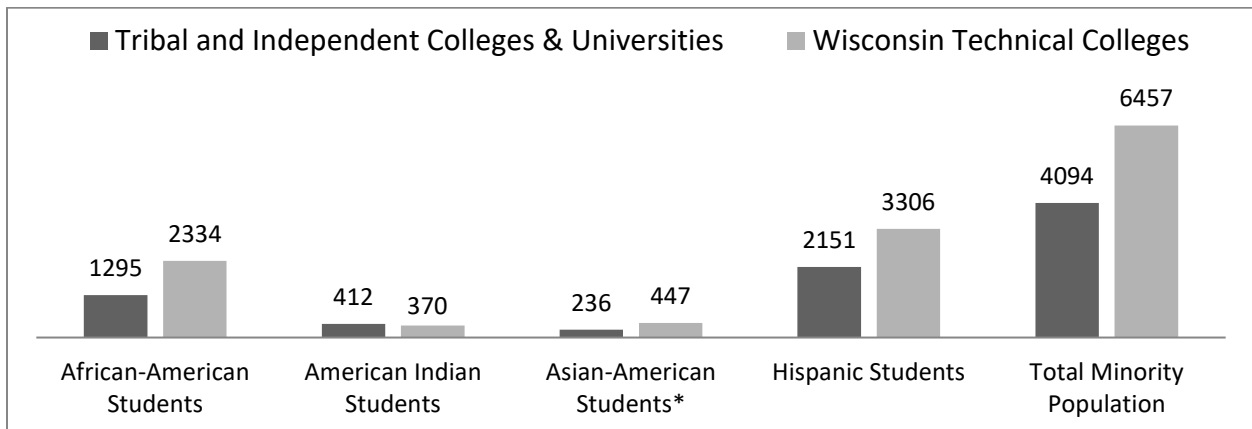
TABLE VI: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
YEAR IN SCHOOL				
2 ND YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 311,099	377	\$ 825	68.78%
3 RD YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 78,605	109	\$ 721	21.54%
4 TH YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 19,612	27	\$ 726	4.69%
5 TH YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 8,709	13	\$ 670	2.08%
TOTAL	\$ 418,025	526	\$ 795	100%
STATUS OF RECIPIENTS				
DEPENDENT	\$ 94,116	121	\$ 778	22.51%
INDEPENDENT	\$ 323,909	405	\$ 800	77.49%
TOTAL	\$ 418,025	526	\$ 795	100%
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP				
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	\$ 195,812	252	\$ 777	46.84%
AMERICAN INDIAN	\$ 38,488	44	\$ 875	9.21%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	\$ 31,268	43	\$ 727	7.48%
HISPANIC	\$ 152,457	187	\$ 815	36.47%
TOTAL	\$ 418,025	526	\$ 795	100%

GRAPH I: 2023-24 STUDENT MINORITY POPULATIONS AT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Note: Population data collected from the 2023-24 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.*



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TABLE VII: 2023-24 MINORITY RETENTION GRANT RECIPIENT SURVEY RESULTS

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
How did the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award influence your decision to attend college during the 2023-24 academic year?		
The award allowed me to attend school. Without it, I would not have been able to attend.	49	42.98%
The award positively influenced by decision to attend school. Without it, it would have been difficult for me to attend school.	49	42.98%
The award had no influence on my decision to attend school. Without it, I would have still attended school.	16	14.04%
Did you earn a Bachelor, an Associate Degree, or a certificate during the 2023-24 academic year?		
Yes	62	54.87%
No	51	45.13%
If you did not earn a degree or certificate during the 2023-24 academic year, how soon do you anticipate earning a degree or certificate?		
2024-25 academic year	29	56.86%
2025-26 academic year	16	31.37%
2026-27 academic year	5	9.80%
I do not plan on completing a degree or certificate	0	0.00%
Other (please explain):	1	1.96%
If you did NOT earn a degree or certificate during the 2023-24 academic year, will you be attending a college or university during the 2024-25 academic year?		
Yes	50	98.04%
Enrollment Status: Full-time: 31 Part-time: 19		
No	1	1.96%
Were you employed during the 2023-24 academic year?		
Yes	75	81.52%
32 hours/week or more: 38 Less than 32 hours/week: 56		
No	17	18.48%
Do you plan to be a Wisconsin resident for most of your working career?		
Yes	102	92.73%
No	8	7.27%