INFORMATION
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HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

2025-2026 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Program (MURG) Annual Report

#27-06

MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT

State of Wisconsin
Higher Educational Aids Board
October 2026

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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 were 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/universities.

Awards were 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 could receive the grant for up to eight semesters or 12 quarters.

Funds were 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 2025-26 academic year, eight technical colleges, thirteen independent, non-profit colleges/universities, and two tribal colleges/universities received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allocation. The University of Wisconsin System Administration had a similar program, the Lawton Grant, for students attending a University of Wisconsin institution.

During the 2025-26 academic year, 673 students received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award. 190 grant recipients attended a Wisconsin non-profit, independent college/university or tribal college/university, and 483 grant 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 2025-26 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 Institutions and WTCS
- Tables IV and VI: Recipient Demographics for Independent/Tribal Institutions and WTCS
- Table VII: 2025-26 Minority Retention Grant Recipient Survey Results

The data collected and the results of the grant recipient survey demonstrate that the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant was highly successful. Participating schools reported that 77.12% of grant recipients either completed their degree/certificate programs or will continue to work towards degree/certificate completion during the 2026-27 academic year. Ninety-eight percent of the grant recipients who responded to the survey indicated that they either earned a degree or certificate during the 2025-26 academic year or will return to school to continue to pursue their educational goals. In addition, 90.74% of the recipients indicated that they planned to spend the majority of their working life in the State of Wisconsin.

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

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

COMBINED DATA:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 25-26	248	36.85%
Students enrolled for 26-27 and continuing toward degree/certificate	271	40.27%
Students not enrolled for 26-27 who did not complete degree/certificate	154	22.88%
COMBINED TOTALS	**673**	**100%**
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:	**NUMBER**	**PERCENTAGE**
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 25-26	69	36.32%
Students enrolled for 26-27 and continuing toward degree/certificate	94	49.47%
Students not enrolled for 26-27 who did not complete degree/certificate	27	14.21%
TOTALS	**190**	**100%**
TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM SCHOOLS:	**NUMBER**	**PERCENTAGE**
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 25-26	179	37.06%
Students enrolled for 26-27 and continuing toward degree/certificate	177	36.65%
Students not enrolled for 26-27 who did not complete degree/certificate	127	26.29%
TOTALS	**483**	**100%**

Note: The students reported as "students not enrolled for 26-27 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	$ 180,310	216	$ 835
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 111,815	150	$ 745
CARROLL UNIVERSITY	$ 86,935	49	$ 1,774
ALVERNO COLLEGE	$ 43,345	20	$ 2,167
WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 43,108	18	$ 2,395
TOTALS	**$ 465,513**	**453**	**$ 1,028**

TABLE III: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR INDEPENDENT/TRIBAL INSTITUTIONS

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
ALVERNO COLLEGE	$ 43,345	20	$ 2,167	12.32%
BELLIN COLLEGE	$ 1,590	1	$ 1,590	0.45%
CARROLL UNIVERSITY	$ 86,935	49	$ 1,774	24.72%
CARTHAGE COLLEGE	$ 22,125	9	$ 2,458	6.29%
COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION	$ 10,314	19	$ 543	2.93%
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	$ 27,640	12	$ 2,303	7.86%
EDGEWOOD UNIVERSITY	$ 17,025	8	$ 2,128	4.84%
LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWE UNIVERSITY	$ 13,330	6	$ 2,222	3.79%
MARANATHA	$ 850	2	$ 425	0.24%
MARIAN UNIVERSITY	$ 22,375	10	$ 2,238	6.36%
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN	$ 10,715	9	$ 1,191	3.05%
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING	$ 24,500	11	$ 2,227	6.97%
MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY	$ 29,500	15	$ 1,967	8.39%
RIPON COLLEGE	$ 30,247	14	$ 2,161	8.60%
ST NORBERT COLLEGE	$ 11,250	5	$ 2,250	3.20%
TOTALS:	**$ 351,741**	**190**	**$ 1,851**	**100%**

2025-26 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipient:

"Receiving the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant meant more to me than financial assistance. As a 47-year-old Black woman returning to school to pursue my associate degree in nursing, this grant represented validation, opportunity, and perseverance. It acknowledged the unique challenges many minority and nontraditional students face, balancing family, work, finances, and the emotional weight of returning to the classroom after years away.

For me, it was confirmation that my dream still mattered, no matter my age or background. Receiving this grant encouraged me to continue breaking barriers, not only for myself, but for my children, my family, and the women who come behind me. It reminded me that education has no expiration date, and that purpose does not diminish with age.

This grant also relieved some of the financial burden that often discourages adult learners from completing higher education. Nursing school requires sacrifice, long clinical hours, studying, and persistence. The support from this grant allowed me to focus more fully on succeeding academically and clinically, while continuing to care for my responsibilities outside of school.

Most importantly, the grant symbolized hope and resilience. It affirmed that despite obstacles, setbacks, or self-doubt, I belong in higher education and in the nursing profession. My journey reflects determination, faith, and the belief that it is never too late to grow, serve, and fulfill one's calling. I am not only earning a degree – I am creating a legacy of strength, perseverance, and possibility."

--- *Carol,* Gateway Technical College

TABLE IV: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR INDEPENDENT/TRIBAL INSTITUTIONS

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
YEAR IN SCHOOL				
2ND YEAR STUDENTS	$ 99,859	57	$ 1,752	28.39%
3RD , 4TH , & 5TH YEAR STUDENTS	$ 251,882	133	$ 1,894	71.61%
TOTAL	**$ 351,741**	**190**	**$ 1,851**	**100%**
STATUS OF RECIPIENTS				
DEPENDENT	$ 268,333	137	$ 1,959	76.29%
INDEPENDENT	$ 83,408	53	$ 1,574	23.71%
TOTAL	**$ 351,741**	**190**	**$ 1,851**	**100%**
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP				
BLACK AMERICAN	$ 133,889	64	$ 2,092	38.06%
AMERICAN INDIAN	$ 33,081	29	$ 1,141	9.40%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	$ 10,000	5	$ 2,000	2.84%
HISPANIC	$ 174,771	92	$ 1,900	49.69%
TOTAL	**$ 351,741**	**190**	**$ 1,851**	**100%**
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY SECTOR				
INDEPENDENT	$ 328,097	165	$ 1,988	93.28%
TRIBAL	$ 23,644	25	$ 946	6.72%
TOTAL	**$ 351,741**	**190**	**$ 1,851**	**100%**

2025-26 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

"The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allowed me to focus on my studies more than worrying about finances."

---*Shalynn,* College of Menominee Nation

"The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant helped me a lot financially. Even though I was working full time, paying for school was still very difficult, and this grant made a real difference for me."

---*Jeremy,* Milwaukee School of Engineering

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	$ 13,705	20	$ 685	3.15%
CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 29,700	19	$ 1,563	6.82%
FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 19,010	22	$ 864	4.37%
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 111,815	150	$ 745	25.69%
MADISON COLLEGE	$ 180,310	216	$ 835	41.43%
NORTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 36,100	37	$ 976	8.29%
SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 1,495	1	$ 1,495	0.34%
WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	$ 43,108	18	$ 2,395	9.90%
TOTALS:	**$ 435,243**	**483**	**$ 901**	**100%**

2025-26 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

"Receiving the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant was very important to me because it helped relieve financial stress while balancing school, work, and being a mother. Becoming a mom did not stop me from continuing my education and working toward my goals, even when things became challenging. This grant helped motivate me to keep going and reminded me that my education matters. As a first-generation Latina student, I want to build a better future for my son and show him that hard work and education are important. I am very grateful for this opportunity and support."

---*Isabella,* Alverno College

"Receiving the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant was important to me because it helped relieve some of the financial stress that comes with balancing college, work, and personal responsibilities. As a student working toward my degree, support like this allows me to stay focused on my education and continue progressing toward my goals without feeling overwhelmed by financial barriers. This grant not only provided financial assistance but also reminded me that students like me are seen, supported, and encouraged to succeed in higher education."

---*Kiara,* Mount Mary University

TABLE VI: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
YEAR IN SCHOOL				
2nd YEAR STUDENTS	$ 325,018	337	$ 964	74.68%
3RD & 4TH YEAR STUDENTS	$ 110,225	146	$ 755	25.32%
TOTAL	**$ 435,243**	**483**	**$ 901**	**100%**
STATUS OF RECIPIENTS				
DEPENDENT	$ 136,414	152	$ 897	31.34%
INDEPENDENT	$ 298,829	331	$ 903	68.66%
TOTAL	**$ 435,243**	**483**	**$ 901**	**100%**
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP				
BLACK AMERICAN	$ 180,705	218	$ 829	41.52%
AMERICAN INDIAN	$ 35,511	33	$ 1,076	8.16%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	$ 46,358	36	$ 1,288	10.65%
HISPANIC	$ 172,669	196	$ 881	39.67%
TOTAL	**$ 435,243**	**483**	**$ 901**	**100%**

2025-26 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

"Going to school full time, while also working full time and having 2 young children, is really difficult and expensive. Receiving this Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant helped me since I didn't have to take more money out of our bank account to pay for my classes and books and will not have loans with interest rates to pay back."

---*Madison,* Western Technical College

"The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant afforded me the ability to attend school to work on my undergraduate degree. Without this grant, I would not be able to afford to go."

---*B.Z.,* Madison College

TABLE VII: 2025-26 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 2025-26 academic year?		
The award allowed me to attend school. Without it, I would not have been able to attend.	**41**	**37.61%**
The award positively influenced by decision to attend school. Without it, it would have been difficult for me to attend school.	**64**	**58.72%**
The award had no influence on my decision to attend school. Without it, I would have still attended school.	**4**	**3.67%**
Did you earn a Bachelor, an Associate Degree, or a certificate during the 2025-26 academic year?		
Yes	**45**	**41.67%**
No	**63**	**58.33%**
If you did not earn a degree or certificate during the 2025-26 academic year, how soon do you anticipate earning a degree or certificate?		
2026-27 academic year	**39**	**60.94%**
2027-28 academic year	**18**	**28.13%**
2028-29 academic year	**5**	**7.81%**
I do not plan on completing a degree or certificate	**0**	**0.00%**
Other (please explain):	**2**	**3.13%**
If you did NOT earn a degree or certificate during the 2025-26 academic year, will you be attending a college or university during the 2026-27 academic year?		
Yes	**62**	**98.41%**
Enrollment Status: Full-time: 51 Part-time: 11		
No	**1**	**1.59%**
Were you employed during the 2025-26 academic year?		
Yes	**76**	**78.35%**
32 hours/week or more: 30 Less than 32 hours/week: 57		
No	**21**	**21.65%**
Do you plan to be a Wisconsin resident for most of your working career?		
Yes	**98**	**90.74%**
No	**10**	**9.26%**