

For Immediate Release
Sept. 22, 2017

DR. ROLF WEGENKE, PRESIDENT
WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Dr. Wegenke's Statement on Wisconsin's Increased Investment in Student Aid

MADISON, Wis. – As president of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), I want to thank Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Legislature for supporting students by voting a 5 percent increase in the Wisconsin Grants program in the 2017-19 state budget. Wisconsin Grants are the state's principal student financial aid program, assisting academically qualified Wisconsin students with financial need at both public and private colleges and universities in Wisconsin.

The increase in the Wisconsin Grant funding – which had been stagnant for the past decade – demonstrates that Wisconsin is taking its workforce shortage seriously and is proactively investing in higher education for its citizens. Wisconsin Grants empower students to have access to the kinds of higher education experiences that are the best fit for them, to take charge of their own futures, and to achieve their career aspirations.

I give my thanks, not only for myself, but on behalf of the 24 member private, nonprofit colleges and universities and their nearly 58,000 students. WAICU members do not receive direct operating support from the state as do public institutions. WAICU members do, however, provide over \$500 million annually in privately raised dollars in grants and scholarships directly to students. WAICU members graduate 27 percent of the state's bachelor's degrees. The Wisconsin Grant program for the private, nonprofit sector provides a significant return on investment for the State of Wisconsin.

A video featuring recipients of the Wisconsin Grant at Wisconsin's private nonprofit colleges and universities can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/XFpPiW1IO_k

More information on the Wisconsin Grant – Private Nonprofit appropriation can be found at www.wisconsin-grants.org.

###

About WAICU:

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

Contact:

Cassandra Krause, Director of Communications and Marketing

Email: cassandra.krause@waicu.org

Phone: 608-204-5225