

2025 WELS SYNOD CONVENTION REPORT

THE VALUE OF A WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE EDUCATION

At WLC, we generously invest in making a Christian college education affordable. Last year, we awarded more than \$17.5 million in scholarship support to our students, helping to make their dream of a WLC education a reality.

PARTNERS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

A \$2,000 renewable scholarship will be given to students who graduate from a Christian high school and enroll at WLC.

MERIT AWARDS

Merit Awards for qualifying freshmen enrolling in Fall 2025 range from \$12,500 to \$20,000 per year, for a lifetime value of \$50,000 to \$80,000. For more information on WLC's scholarships, please visit wlc.edu/scholarships.

NATIONALLY RANKED

For 2025, U.S. News & World Report rates WLC as one of the Top 20 Regional Colleges in the Midwest. WLC also is included in the U.S. News rankings for **Best Value Schools**, ranked 12th among Regional Colleges in the Midwest.

Washington Monthly included Wisconsin Lutheran College in its 2024 list of America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges. Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) prepares students to embrace their faith and step into the world as Christian servant leaders, ready to make a positive impact. WLC is an independent, nationally ranked college that is affiliated with the WELS, where our students grow both spiritually and academically, encouraged by WELS faculty who are dedicated to helping students realize their God-given purpose.

- During the 2024-2025 academic year, the college enrolled 957 traditional undergrads, and 100% of them received financial aid. Nearly 70% of freshmen were from Wisconsin and 35% were first-generation college students.
- In addition to more than 40 undergraduate and master's programs, WLC offers 14 accelerated dual-degree programs in such fields as law, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and public health. Learn more at wlc.edu/programs.
- This fall, WLC will welcome its first cohort of students who are pursuing a Master of Science in Professional Counseling degree; they will become equipped to provide transformational, compassionate, and ethical care within diverse mental health settings. This program will prepare them to become Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) in the state of Wisconsin by combining rigorous academics with a Christ-motivated approach to serving others.



On May 10, WLC held its spring commencement ceremony in the Time of Grace Center. Dr. John D. Kolander, who retired as the college's Provost at the end of June, was the keynote speaker and recipient of the Pro Gloria Dei Award. He has served in Lutheran education for 44 years at the grade school, high school, and collegiate levels.



The Class of 2025 was comprised of more than 200 graduates from 16 states representing 44 academic programs. Top majors included education, marketing, nursing, sport management, sport and exercise science (pictured), biology, and criminal justice.



Five WLC psychology students (above) had their research accepted for presentation at the PSI CHI poster session of the Midwest Psychological Association Convention in Chicago. They presented at the Palmer House in April. Congratulations!

On April 26, WLC hosted its annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, during which 23 students presented research projects from a wide range of disciplines, including biology, mathematics, neuroscience, physics, and psychology.

Dr. Joel Davis '08, Professor of Chemistry, gave the keynote address, discussing his research on the topic of "Student selfcompetence gains in classes using active learning and mastery based grading."



Senior **Emily Buch** (above) gave an engaging presentation at the symposium titled "Introduction to Knot Theory: How To Untie Your Shoelaces." She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics this fall at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



WLC students were honored at the annual Impact Award Luncheon in May. James Biedenbender '25 (above, center), a marketing and finance major from La Crosse, Wisconsin, was the 33rd recipient of the college's Impact Award. As a four-year student-athlete competing in volleyball, James served as the team's captain for three seasons. He also was Student Body President during his junior and senior years.

The other finalists for the Impact Award honored at the luncheon were **Gabriella Miller** (above, left) and **Lydia Drake** (above, right). All three finalists completed WLC's Christian Leadership Certificate Program and made a tremendous impact on the WLC community during their years on campus.

The Impact Award event featured a keynote speech from **Skip Noon**, who retired this month from his role as Director of Athletics after serving at WLC for 33 years.

In addition to his award, James was chosen by his classmates to be the student speaker at spring commencement. He noted: "It was a privilege to represent such an amazing group of people on such a meaningful day."

We appreciate all the students who demonstrate leadership on our campus and in the community!



In May, WLC nursing students took part in a global health immersion trip to Zambia, where our future Christian nurses worked with local service organizations and participated in clinical experiences. Pictured below, WLC students educated children about oral hygiene.



Dr. Sheryl Scott, Associate Professor and Chair of WLC's School of Nursing, reported: "Visits to Beit Cure Hospital and Special Hope Network provided a wonderful ending to our travels. Thanks be to God for keeping the group safe and for providing this amazing opportunity!"



Also in May, four WLC students served at St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada, along with **Campus Pastor Nathan Wordell**, as part of a mission trip.