

Financial Wellness Newsletter

WIPPS' WAUSAU AREA COLLEGE DAYS

The Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), a unit of the UW System Administration, works to “address local, state and national issues by linking public scholarship, civic outreach, and student services to enhance community life throughout Wisconsin.”

Connexus Association has supported WIPPS' Wausau College Days event for the past 3 years. This project seeks to help middle school students understand how important it is to graduate from high school, and to be prepared to enter college or the workforce. Many low-income middle school students may think college is unaffordable or unattainable to them. Other students might not realize they can earn college credit-bearing courses during high school. “Hopefully, this experience will plant the seed so all students understand that they can and should continue their education beyond high school and provide them with strategies to be successful in high school as well as plan for their future.

Education is a great social equalizer that provides skills people need to make a living wage and can break the cycle of poverty. One way to increase college awareness, especially for low-income and/or first generation students, is to bring students to different college campuses so they can see for themselves that they can navigate a college campus and find out if college is a good fit.” (Quote from WIPPS Program Manager)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WIPPS Wausau Area College Days cont.	2
2019 Treasurer's Report	3
Connexus Association Donates \$15,000 to the Wausau School District's PBIS Program	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- World Wide Foundation of Credit Unions



WIPPS' WAUSAU AREA COLLEGE DAYS CONT.

WIPPS collaborates with John Muir Middle School, Horace Mann Middle School, UW-Stevens Point at Wausau, and UW Stevens Point to plan four college visit days. WIPPS is the coordinating agency that acts as the liaison between the two middle schools and two college campuses. WIPPS is also the fiscal agent, responsible for fundraising and distributing funds. Both John Muir and Horace Mann designate a lead teacher to organize the teachers and students, and transportation. The lead teacher is also responsible for communicating with parents, teachers, and administrators. Each of the college campuses appoint staff to recruit other faculty members to host mini sessions and reserve the facilities.

The seventh-grade students will visit UW Stevens Point at Wausau and the eighth-grade students will visit UW Stevens Point. The students will

“Hopefully, this experience will plant the seed so all students understand that they can and should continue their education beyond high school and provide them with strategies to be successful in high school as well as plan for their future.” (Quote from WIPPS Program Manager)



learn about the different types of colleges, degrees, and majors offered at each campus. The two campuses will work in partnership on the mini session topics to ensure that the eighth-grade students receive different and complementary information from their seventh-grade event. Additionally, the eighth-grade college visit days will be designed to supplement their eighth-grade careers class. This class helps the students with their transition to high school while also emphasizing specific courses the students should take in high school to prepare them for college and/or the workforce. The eighth-grade students at UW Stevens Point also participate in a scavenger hunt consisting of exploring the entire campus, a resident hall, and meeting with staff from departments including the bursar's office and the financial aid office.

Examples of information the students will learn from these mini-sessions include college readiness, financial aid options to pay for college, how to evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses. Hands on activities, taught by college instructors and community members, will focus on how to prepare for their future college and/or career goals, why to continue their education beyond high school; and what employers look for in their future workforce. There is also a student panel.

At the end of the day, WIPPS hopes that the middle school students will understand what courses they should register for to prepare for college and/or the workforce, the meaning or role of financial aid, what is required for college admission, and the different choices of degrees and majors.

2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

Connexus Association received membership dues totaling \$501,791* during 2019. Connexus Association donated \$372,374* during 2019. A list of all individuals or organizations that benefited from Connexus Association during 2019 are listed below:

Wausau School District	Lincoln High School DECA
Children's Imaginarium	Junior Achievement of OKI Partners
Lincoln High School	Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest
NTC Foundation	South Wood County Financial Stability Coalition
Worldwide Foundation of CU's	United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties
Mid-State Technical College	YWCA
Stevens Point Area Schools	IrishFest Central Wisconsin
Junior Achievement Central WI (Wausau and Merrill)	United Way of Marathon County
DC Everest Public Schools	Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Aspirus Health Foundation	Boy Scouts of America
Filene	The Neighbors' Place
National Credit Union Foundation	Paige Bootz Memorial Scholarship
Wisconsin Credit Union Foundation	Hiway Credit Union Foundation
Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy & Service (WIPPS)	Community Matters
Greenpath	Achieve Center
Stem Scouts	Gigi's Playhouse
Assumption High School	Maine Lions
Pacelli Schools	Ronald McDonald House
Center for Executive Excellence	Alzheimer's Association
Junior Achievement of Wood and Portage Counties	Dani's Journey Educational Fund
Horace Mann Eagle Market	Habitat for Humanity
Wausau Conservatory of Music	Wausau Community Theater
WATEA	Kiwanis/Irish Fest
Breakfast Optimists	The Greater Wausau FFA Alumni
Community Foundation of NorthCentral Wisconsin (Free Clinic)	Camp Hope
Wisconsin Credit Union House	Charles & JoAnn Lester Libraru
WI Valley Lutheran High School	LHS Sportainment Night
Northland Lutheran High School	NYIB (Nat Youth Involvement Board)
Newman Catholic Schools	Wausau Children's Museum
MS Walk	Bishop Flaget Knights of Columbia
Mosinee Area Action Club (MAAC)	Humane Society of Marathon County
Price Hill Will	WINGS
Monk Botanical Gardens	Wausau Early Bird Rotary
Women's Community	WRA Wisconsin River Valley Chapter
Ministry/St. Clares Hospital Foundation	UWSP School of Business & Economics
	Texas Lions

WORLDWIDE FOUNDATION OF CREDIT UNIONS

Worldwide Foundation of Credit Unions operates internationally as the charitable arm of the World Council of Credit Unions. The Foundation's mission is to improve lives and communities through credit unions and financial cooperatives. They hope to expand financial inclusion worldwide utilizing the global credit union community as they believe all people should have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable financial services.

Connexus Association's donation helped provide and grow financial inclusion to millions worldwide. Examples of how our donation and other donations make a difference include the following projects: "Implementing a financial literacy program that encourages and educates youth to view agriculture as a means of income, assisting a Haitian household in building a safe and affordable home, supporting the development and distribution of an agricultural lending toolkit to train farmers on crop management techniques and good financial practices, helping rebuild credit unions that were damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster, delivering financial services to those living in rural areas who cannot travel to a credit union by using mobile banking officer, and offering technical assistance trainings for rural credit union staff" (*taken from a Worldwide Foundation of Credit Union Supporter Contribution handout*).

*Connexus Association year-end financial information has not yet been reviewed by our outside auditor and final numbers may change.

**CONNEXUS
ASSOCIATION**

The primary purpose of Connexus Association is to provide scholarships for education, to assist educational institutions and to provide financial literacy education to help borrowers and savers reach their financial goals. Members of the Connexus Association consist of organizations or individuals who pay dues. Dues will be \$5.00 and will allow membership for two years. Members may renew their membership every two years with dues of \$5.00.

Please contact us with questions.

CONNEXUS ASSOCIATION DONATES \$15,000 TO THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PBIS PROGRAM

Connexus Association donated \$15,000 to the Wausau School District's elementary and middle schools' PBIS programs for the 2019-2020 school year. This program establishes behavioral support and encouragement for the students to continually develop or improve their social-emotional skills in addition to promoting academic success. These skills are taught, practiced and implemented using common language throughout each school. Each school chooses a set of behavioral expectations (i.e. Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible) that are clearly defined for each of the common areas or times throughout the school.

These expectations are reinforced through school-wide boosters of social-emotional skills and by using incentives when skills are observed. Students are frequently recognized and appreciated, often when they least expect it, for following the expectations. The elementary and middle schools typically use some type of "ticket" system where students can earn a reward. The reward might be individualized or classroom based. Reward systems can vary from school to school. For example, one of the elementary schools uses Cougar Cash to reward and promote positive behaviors. Thus, the PBIS program is also introducing financial literacy to students as they invest, save and spend Cougar Cash. The Cougar Cash can be used to fill "the cougar tank" to help earn a school-wide incentive, be saved or be spent at the school store. The school store has a variety of toys, games, candy, etc. For many students this is their first opportunity to make decisions with their own "money"; therefore, introducing the idea of financial literacy as they discover the options.

Connexus Association
PO Box 2054
Wausau WI 54401-2054

E-mail: info@connexusassociation.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

