

GETTING ACQAINTED - Jan DeBerg, executive director of the Watertown Area Community Foundation, meets Nicole Goens, scholarship recipient, at the LATI Scholarship Luncheon recently. Goens of the rural Goodwin/Clear Lake area, received the Robert Kliegle Memorial Scholarship and also benefitted from the Build Dakota Scholarship program, which WACF supported. Goens aspires to become a nurse. She will graduate from LATI's LPN program in May and plans to continue her education for an RN degree.

Scholarships Make a Difference

As school gets under way this fall, it's important to remember that sometimes scholarships can make all the difference to a student. Scholarships enable deserving students to focus on making the grade rather than striving to meet college expenses.

The Watertown Area Community Foundation administers many scholarship funds which assist students with those costs. Nicole Goens is one deserving student who benefitted from both the Robert Kliegle Memorial Scholarship at the WACF and from the Build Dakota Scholarship program, which WACF supported. Growing up on a farm near Goodwin qualified Goens for the Kliegle scholarship.

For Goens, scholarships have helped her with books and tuition so she didn't have to take out a loan to attend the nursing program at Lake Area Technical Institute. "Nursing has always been my dream job," Goens said, adding that a brother is a nurse in the cardiac ICU unit at Mayo and her mother is also a nurse. Goens will graduate with an LPN degree May 11. Then she plans to take her boards and find a job as an LPN while going to school for her RN degree. "I hope to stay around the Watertown-Clear Lake area. That's my goal."

In the meantime, she is enjoying LATI. "Lake Area is awesome," she said. "They help you get involved. I have been really lucky. The scholarships have helped me greatly. I'm glad I took the time to apply."



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