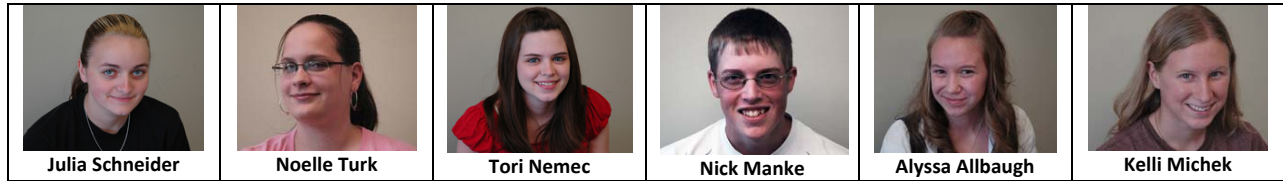




A Campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges

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Press Release



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Six valedictorians on campus this fall: UW-Richland, the choice for top students

Where do smart students start their UW degree?

The University of Wisconsin-Richland was the choice this year for half-a-dozen high school valedictorians, including one All-State Scholar, a record-setting high number for a campus that typically enrolls about 450 students.

“We’re glad to welcome these top scholars. We point out to prospective students that UW-Richland is the smart choice,” said John Poole, UW-Richland assistant dean for Student Services. “Students can begin any UW major with substantially lower tuition than at the four-year UW campuses. If they live at home, they can save even more. Our text rental program means additional savings. Students find they can often save enough by attending UW-Richland for their freshman and sophomore years to cover the cost of their third year of college.

“Perhaps more important, at UW-Richland, students get a high-quality UW education. They benefit from small classes during their important first years of college, from exceptional opportunities for leadership and to conduct research and work one-to-one with our talented and award-winning faculty,” Poole said.

The valedictorians are like most other students when it comes to their reasons for choosing UW-Richland to begin their bachelor’s degree. Most said they decided on UW-Richland because it was close to home, convenient, friends recommended it, and it’s an affordable choice.

Returning for her second year at UW-Richland is **Pardeeville** High School 2008 valedictorian Julia Schneider, who lives in **Gotham**. In addition to being a Dean's List student and Phi Theta Kappa honor society member, Schneider has interests that include martial arts and writing fantasy stories. She recently completed a novella entitled *Aethora*. "I decided on UW-Richland because it's close by. I wasn't sure about my degree choice. I knew I wanted engineering but I wasn't sure what kind." She's made that decision now and is aiming for a degree in engineering physics with a focus on mechanical engineering.

Among the five first-year students is Noelle Turk, who in addition to being **Richland Center** High School valedictorian, was also named a Wisconsin All-State Scholar for 2009. She's aiming for a major in computer science, so it's no surprise that she enjoys working with computers. Her other interests include learning about other cultures and playing the violin.

Alyssa Allbaugh, also from **Richland Center**, is the Eagle High School valedictorian. She's aiming for a career in medical research, possibly epidemiology. Her interests and accomplishments include service as volunteer on medical mission work trips to remote areas of Panama. She was starting point guard on her high school basketball team and she's an award-winning essayist who was named Richland County Good Citizen last spring. "Both my mother and sister are alumni of UW-Richland," she said.

Hillsboro High School valedictorian Nick Manke is starting college with an architectural engineering major in mind. His favorite hobbies are woodworking and bow hunting. "My older brother, Luke, is a student at UW-Richland," he said.

Aiming for a career as a high school mathematics teacher is Tori Nemec, **La Farge** High School valedictorian. Art and travel are among her other interests. In the summer of 2007, she traveled to Australia as a People to People student ambassador. Charcoal drawing is her favorite media when it comes to art. Her artworks won awards in the La Farge High School art show.

Riverdale High School valedictorian Kelli Michek chose UW-Richland because she could live at home and continue to help out on the family farm near **Muscoda**. While she's defining her major, she intends a career in an agricultural-related field. In addition to hunting and spending time with family and friends, her favorite avocation is power lifting. Michek plans to serve as a volunteer coach this fall and winter for the Riverdale High School power lifting team.

"These high achievers bring to our campus community an array of talents both in and out of the classroom," Poole said. "'UW-Richland is the smart choice for all students seeking a university degree.'"

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