



Self-Sufficiency  
Program

# Locally Grown Scholarship Breakfast

October 24, 2024, 7:30 a.m.  
The Bluffs, Student Union  
UW-La Crosse

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ALUMNI & FRIENDS  
FOUNDATION



Western Technical  
College  
FOUNDATION



## **Dreams by Degrees: A Conversation**

**Stacy Rommel and Jen Scaccio, Special Guests  
with Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, Host**

How do dreams take shape in the lives of SSP students? What does education make possible in the lives of SSP participants and their families? Stacy and Jen share reflections on education, dreams and community.

10 years ago, Stacy Rommel re-applied to SSP with firm conviction, "SSP re-starts a journey I feel I'm supposed to start." Well into her recovery, Stacy was paying it forward as a sponsor, jail volunteer, writer of recovery songs, and owner of a small business. Her dream grew stronger, and in 2019, Stacy earned her associate degree from UWL. With confidence and creativity, Stacy nurtures dreams into action.

20 years ago, Jen Scaccio began SSP as a new mother. After earning an associate degree at Western, Jen earned a BSW from Viterbo in 2009 and began her career at New Horizons. Jen continues her advocacy and community work at New Horizons with heart and dedication.

Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, Ph.D. is a coach, consultant, editor and author with more than 25 years of experience in higher education. She is a former UWL faculty member and department chair of the RGSS. Jodi works with organizations and individuals through her company, JVD Consulting, LLC.

## **Breakfast Program**

**Gathering** Steve Vittum, Guitarist

**Welcome:** James Beeby, UWL Chancellor  
Terry Lilley, RGSS Chair, UWL

**Gratitude:** Andrea Hansen, SSP Director  
**I Know I Can Do It**  
video by Jeffrey Kerkman, UWL

**Inspiration: Dreams by Degrees: A Conversation**  
Stacy Rommel and Jen Scaccio, Special  
Guests with Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, Host

**Celebration:** Fall 2024 Locally Grown Scholarship Award

**Closing:** **I'll Dream and Rise Up** - ABBA vs. Andra Day  
Zoe de Boer, Soloist

**Thank you to the entire staff of the UWL University  
Centers, including Campus Dining and Catering Services.**

# Spring 2024 Locally Grown Scholarships Awards

## **Ben Groth, SSP Spring 2023**

Associate Degree in Human Services, Western Technical College

## **Harley Groth, SSP Spring 2023**

Associate Degree in Human Services, Western Technical College

## **Danielle Petska, SSP Fall 2019**

Associate Degree in Business Management, Western Technical College

## **Respect & Congratulations**

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Your gifts to the SSP Locally Grown Scholarship Fund support the college aspirations of student parents and other adults from our community. Funded through your generosity, the scholarships support SSP participants in their first semesters in college. Helping dreams turn into degrees changes individual and families' lives, and our community, too.

**Thank you!**

## Fall 2024 Locally Grown Scholarship Awards



### **Cassidy Yates, Bethel University**

Neuroscience, Bachelor of Science

*Three years ago, I joined SSP and started back to school at Western. I raised my GPA, graduated with honors and an associate degree. I transferred to a 4-year college and maintained my place on the President's List. Now as a senior, I have more confidence and feel I belong. This semester is a doozy (though)! I take physics, organic chemistry, calculus, and an Old Testament course. I am getting closer to my career goals of helping people live with and not suffer from mental illness. "She believed she could, so she did," is my mantra for this year.*

## SSP helps to change lives, 2 generations at a time!

We are grateful to the visionaries who created the Locally Grown Scholarship Fund and all who have given so generously over the years. Each gift, referral, encouragement, and advocacy for college accessibility matters more than you know!

We thank our current and recent past grant and gift-making partners, too. Your gifts are invaluable.

AAUW – La Crosse Chapter

Blahnik-Naugler Help Fund

Cleary-Kumm Foundation

Coulee Bank

Coulee Parenting Connection

Franciscan Sisters of  
Perpetual Adoration

Hale, Skemp, Hanson,  
Skemp and Sleik

Hope United Church

Lillian Kaplan Fund

Marine Credit Union

PEO Sisterhood Chapter BI

The Elmwood Foundation

Women’s Fund of  
Greater La Crosse, Inc.

## We are grateful to our SSP Advisory Board for their commitment and support

Jan Eriksen

D.A. Ferguson

Susanne Koehler

Sandi Krajewski

Betty Kruck

Sue Lee

Barbara Pollack

Joan Schoenfeld

**A Special Thank You** to Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, UWL videographer Jeff Kerkman, and Sue Lee, Adrian Sullivan and Alisha Amman Morgan who shared their stories.

**Thank you to our 2024 Breakfast Sponsors.**



***“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”*** Eleanor Roosevelt

Dear Campus and Community Friends,

We believe your support of SSP is motivated by the dreams you hold close, not only for yourself but for the whole community. You have a heartfelt desire for every child and every person to be nurtured into a promising future. You send a powerful message with each gift and expression of support. With others, you say:

***“I see and believe in the beauty of your dreams.  
Your hope for a brighter future is my hope, too.”***

This is the central message of the annual SSP Locally Grown Breakfast, and the scholarships and encouragement you provide. We are a community of dreamers and planners, tending to the beauty of individual and collective dreams. Together, we dream and plan for the possible.

From all of us at SSP, the RGSS Studies, and CASSH



SSP is a community engagement program of the Race, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.



**Karl Kunkel, Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CASSH), UWL**

*The Self-Sufficiency Program provides people facing significant obstacles with a tremendous opportunity to prepare for and begin pursuing higher education. I'm extremely proud to have this program affiliated with the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. I see the clear value in this program because it changes lives, and I am very happy to support these efforts.*



**Terry Lilley, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UWLL**

*The Self Sufficiency Program is an integral part of the Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. It is emblematic of what we stand and work for: community engagement and empowerment, promoting the value of higher education, and working to make that education more accessible to everyone in the community. RGSS is proud to be the home of this program which has had such an incredible impact on so many lives.*



# Self-Sufficiency Program

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