

# Vicky L. Carwein, Chancellor

## TRI-CITY HERALD COLUMN



### WSU Tri-Cities is proud of Gates Scholar

Published in the Tri-City Herald, Sunday, October 5, 2008  
Business Section, page B6

“Choosing to go to WSU Tri-Cities was the easiest decision I’ve ever had to make.”

This is high praise considering that the Gates Millennium Scholars Program would have paid for Evelyn Martinez to attend any college or university in the nation.

Martinez, who graduated from Warden High School this spring, is the first Gates Scholar to attend WSU Tri-Cities. She chose our campus so that she could earn a nursing degree while living close to home.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program promotes academic excellence by covering all educational expenses for high-achieving minority students who major in computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science. More than 13,000 students nationwide applied for this prestigious scholarship and Martinez was among 1,000 students to receive the award.

The 22-page application took Martinez several months to complete – “It was like taking a class,” she said. Among other things, she wrote eight essays on her personal experiences, goals, successes, challenges and family situation. She also submitted test scores, transcripts and her WSU Tri-Cities letter of acceptance.

Martinez was the ideal candidate for the scholarship, said Angela Doorman, the teacher who encouraged her to apply. She said Martinez had a high GPA, the “passion, know-how and heart” and a perfect combination of “style and substance.”

Doorman was also a huge influence in Martinez’s decision to apply to WSU Tri-Cities. She suggested Martinez attend a school where she would be nurtured by faculty and staff and not get lost in large classes.

The relationship the campus has with local businesses was also a draw. While Martinez does not have to pay for her education, she does not want to rely on her parents for any financial support. After she has completed more of her coursework, she plans to work at a local hospital to gain experience before she graduates.

Healthcare is important to Martinez, who was diagnosed with a benign, inoperable brain tumor when she was a child. She has been in and out of hospitals her entire life. “The nurses who took care of me have inspired me to make a difference.”

After graduation, her goal is to stay in her hometown and provide healthcare for low-income families.

This commitment to family and community was another reason why Martinez chose to attend WSU Tri-Cities. She is close to her parents and three siblings, who have been “incredibly supportive” of her decision to go to school. “I could have gone anywhere, but I wanted to stay close to my family.”



*World Class. Face to Face.*



Martinez said that WSU Tri-Cities is the perfect place to start reaching her goals. She learned about the campus from a recruiter who talked about the nursing program and the campus size. Martinez then visited campus and met with her academic advisor. During the summer she attended an orientation session where she registered for classes and “got started on the right path.”

Because of her scholarship, Martinez has every opportunity to earn a degree and meet her academic and professional goals. All scholarships, and particularly the Gates Scholarship, have a tremendously positive impact on students, families and their communities.

The cost of in-state tuition has risen over 80 percent in the past decade—now at about \$6,700 per academic year—and more than 70 percent of WSU Tri-Cities students receive some form of financial assistance. Now more than ever, scholarships are needed.

The quality education available at WSU Tri-Cities has attracted high-achieving students from across the region. We take seriously our mandate to serve the citizens of this region and we are proud to welcome students such as Martinez into the Cougar Family.

- Chancellor Vicky L. Carwein may be contacted at [chancellor@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:chancellor@tricity.wsu.edu). WSU Tri-Cities offers 17 baccalaureate, 14 graduate, and five doctoral degree programs as part of the Washington State University system. The campus is located at 2710 University Drive in Richland, one block north of Hanford High. For more information, call 509-372-7250 or go to [www.tricity.wsu.edu](http://www.tricity.wsu.edu).



Gates Scholar Evelyn Martinez



*World Class. Face to Face.*

