FIRST CITIZENS STATE BANK
PAY CONFIDENTLY WITH VISA.
Using your First Citizens Debit Card just became easier. Add it to your Mobile Wallet today!
Click to Learn More
Apple Pay G Pay SAMSUNG pay

Whitewaterbanner.com
Presented by WHITEWATER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FIRST CITIZENS STATE BANK
PAY CONFIDENTLY WITH VISA.
Using your First Citizens Debit Card just became easier. Add it to your Mobile Wallet today!
Click to Learn More
Apple Pay G Pay SAMSUNG pay

Which Schools Give You the Best Shot at Becoming an S&P 500 CEO? – UW-W is listed

Posted on: August 16, 2026

The interesting compilation below of the universities from which Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) of S&P [Standard & Poor's] 500 companies graduated is posted to LinkedIn. The S&P 500 Index is a list of 500 of the largest publicly traded U.S. stocks. UW-Whitewater is referenced twice in the text and is shown as having three graduates listed on the S&P 500: CME Group ["the world's largest derivatives marketplace], Generac [which has a plant in Whitewater], and WEC Energy Group [parent company of We Energies].

Josh Angle • 3rd+
Head of Growth @ Leland | Care...
6mo •
+ Follow ···

Which schools give you the best shot at becoming an S&P 500 CEO?

Honestly, hard to say. But we did look up all 500 of the current S&P 500 CEOs to find out where each of them got a degree!

Some big surprises:
- Miami (the colder, Ohio version) has 8 S&P 500 CEOs, more than MIT, Stanford, and Duke combined! I was not familiar with their game.
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has 3 CEOs, I would guess most people outside of Wisconsin don't know that school even exists.
- In general there are a lot of "less prestigious" public schools that outperform their "more prestigious" in state rival. UW-Whitewater over UW-Madison, Oregon State over Oregon, NC State over UNC, Texas A&M over UT-Austin.
-No Degree: The number #1 school seems to be the school of hard knocks haha. 15 of the CEOs don't even have an undergraduate degree. These include both tech dropouts (Zuck, Jack Dorsey, and Michael Dell) and folks who worked their way up from blue-collar jobs at firms like Costco, Old Dominion, and O'Reilly.
There are definitely some "traditionally elite" schools that have done well by this metric (UPenn, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton), but also some that are surprisingly absent from the list (Stanford? Duke? Columbia? UChicago?).

What do you think? Does your college significantly affect your chances of being a CEO at one of the biggest companies in the world?

P.S. If you want to see more interesting career and academic data like this, follow me for weekly content!

Editor's note: The following background on the three UW-W students is from Wikipedia and various other online sources.

Terrance A. Duffy, CEO of CME Group, attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater from 1978 to 1980.[1][8] While going to school, he worked nights at a bar called Chuck's in Lake Geneva, an affluent resort town popular with wealthy Chicagoans.[1][9] There he met Vincent Schreiber, a Chicago Mercantile Exchange trader who convinced Duffy to take up a career in trading and eventually became his professional mentor.[1][8] From CME's website: "As the world's leading derivatives marketplace, CME Group is where the world comes to manage risk. We enable clients to trade futures, options, cash and OTC markets, optimize portfolios, and analyze data – empowering market participants worldwide to efficiently manage risk and capture opportunities."

Aaron Jagdfeld was appointed president and chief executive officer of Generac in September, 2008 and is the current CEO.[7] Aaron P. Jagdfeld is based out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is the CEO, President, and Chairman of Generac Power Systems and Board of Directors at National Association of Manufacturers. Aaron P. Jagdfeld attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Jagdfeld received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2012 Award. [From Crunchbase] Generac is well known for its generators, and the company employs hundreds of people at its Whitewater plant.

Scott Lauber was appointed CEO of WEC Energy Group in 2022, having been employed by various parts of the company since 2003. He graduated from UW-Whitewater with a degree in accounting in 1987.

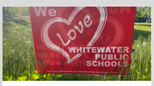
Share This

Posted in News

Prairie Village by Fairhaven
DRIVE TRAFFIC TO YOUR SITE
ADVERTISE ON THE BANNER
Fairhaven Senior Services

Other Recent Posts

Discover Whitewater Series Entry Fees Increase 9/1 – Several Sponsors Announced
Read More



"We Love Whitewater Public Schools" Signs Going Up Just in Time for Back to School
Read More

Our Readers Share: Kristine Zaballos – Rusty Patch Bumble Bee News
Read More

Road Closure: CTH D from USH 18 to CTH B
Read More

Kids to Kids Rummage
Read More

This Week's City & School Board Meetings (Updated)
Read More

Search our Archives... press <enter> when finished typing.

The Whitewater Banner is sponsored by:

Become An Arts Ally! whitewaterarts.org

THE BOOK TELLER Books Gifts Curios

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE! 250 x 250 px CONTACT US NOW

The Mission of the Whitewater Banner

To enrich and inform our community by sharing Whitewater-specific news, events, & photos, as the primary reliable and objective source of easy-to-use, timely, and engaging content, accessible by the entire community of Whitewater.

Contact the Editor

WhitewaterBanner@gmail.com

Early City Motto "The Banner Inland City of the Midwest"
The Banner has been serving Whitewater, Wisconsin since August 1, 2006

The Whitewater Banner is updated multiple times per week with no set schedule. Please send news releases, photos, and events to the editor as soon as possible to ensure timely posting.

© 2026 Whitewater Banner. All Rights Reserved.