

**Article for Fall College Guides**  
**Waldorf College**  
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**Engaging, innovative classroom experiences shape Waldorf College**

Innovative, hands-on experiences shape Waldorf College's dynamic academic programs, regardless of the discipline. Located in Forest City, the college's liberal arts curriculum emphasizes personal attention and dynamic learning experiences, as faculty engage students through creative teaching methods.

The Waldorf faculty who teach the college's more than 500 students are regarded as innovative and dedicated by those who learn in their classrooms. Likewise, those same students regard the college as unabashedly small and uncommonly attentive. As student body president Eric Villhauer describes it, "there is absolutely no falling through the cracks."

Villhauer, a senior history/political science major from Wellman, Iowa, tells of professors inquiring about his health when he's had to miss class or engaging him in thought-provoking conversations—maybe continuing a class discussion or reflecting on issues related to that day's news—while sharing a lunch hour in the student center.

"It's impossible to feel invisible at Waldorf," said Villhauer. "Faculty and staff take a genuine interest in who you are and what you want to do in the future."

Villhauer is a great example of what happens when a student has the chance to explore career options connected to his or her interests within the context of a liberal arts education. A former high school thespian, he arrived at Waldorf to study theatre arts and spent his first two years studying lines for roles nearly as often as chapters for tests. But then he felt an interest in politics ignite.

"I've always been interested in politics," said Villhauer. "I just hadn't thought of it as a career option until I was at Waldorf."

Now he puts his oratory skills to use in classes like Political Parties and Elections where the professor requires her students to study issues and then volunteer for a political campaign.

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“I like to discover things about myself, and that has certainly happened at Waldorf, because of the way courses are taught and the way I was able to be involved in campus life,” said Villhauer.

Kristen Grennan, a 2008 communications graduate from Fort Morgan, Colo., experienced a similar journey of discovery. As the first person in her family to attend college, she is a little surprised to find herself now pursuing a post-graduate degree in educational administration. Yet, the way Grennan immersed herself in activities revealed her genuine love of learning.

“I don’t think I could have packed anything more into my time at Waldorf,” said Grennan, who hopes to teach at the college level someday. “Because I had been president of my class and seven organizations during my senior year in high school, I wanted to find a college where I could continue to be involved while I got a degree.”

At Waldorf, Grennan managed to finish her bachelor’s degree in three years while playing volleyball, serving on Student Senate and serving as station director for KZOW, Waldorf’s student-managed radio station. An honors student, Grennan also worked as a resident assistant her final year on campus and represented the student body at Board of Regents meetings.

“Waldorf gave me opportunities to get the most out of my college experience,” she said. “I learn best by doing, and I was able to develop leadership skills while discovering how much I enjoyed the learning process itself.”

Both Villhauer and Grennan describe their feelings about Waldorf using terms that speak of relational experiences: long-lasting friendships, memorable classmates and unforgettable faculty.

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“I think the best thing I got from Waldorf is an education that will serve me a lifetime,” said Grennan. “I plan to use what I’ve learned to make a difference. I hope to teach at a college someday and engage students in learning experiences the same way Waldorf’s faculty engaged me.”

The academic programs most in demand at Waldorf College include education, business, communications, psychology, history/political science and wellness. Other growing areas of study include creative writing, theatre arts and music. To learn more about Waldorf College and what it has to offer, visit [www.waldorf.edu](http://www.waldorf.edu) or call 1-800-292-1903 and ask to speak to an admission counselor or a faculty member from a specific discipline.