



News release

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**Gassman visit highlights Industrial Machine Repair
boot camp completion ceremony**

RACINE – A total of 13 program completers were lauded at Gateway Technical College’s first-ever Machine Repair Boot Camp completion ceremony July 31 on the Racine Campus, highlighted by keynote speaker Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman.

The innovative boot camp – based on employer demand and input -- assists dislocated and underemployed workers by putting them through a rigorous program which trains them to be machine repair technicians. Students leave the 19-week, 40-hour-a-week program with the technical skills to land a job, or could apply the 14 credits earned toward a Gateway Industrial Mechanical Technician degree expected to begin in Spring 2010.

Gassman told completers that ensuring Wisconsin has skilled workers such as they have are needed to ensure the state recovers from the soft economy that has troubled the United States since last fall.

“Our goal in the state is to ensure workers have good jobs and our employers need to have skilled workers,” said Gassman. “As we come out of this

economic slump, it will be incredibly important for the state to have skilled workers. It gives me great honor to commend you for what you have achieved.”

Debbie Davidson, Gateway Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development Division, told completers they should be proud of their educational achievements but look at them as a beginning – of their career and future training.

“The skills and certificates you’ve obtained in this boot camp are what will set you apart from other applicants you will compete against,” said Davidson.

Completers include: Jerrid Barber, Todd DeGroot, Jeff Jenkins, William Jenkins, Justin Jensen, Henry Nelson, Carlos Palos, Joseph Porras, Peter Simanek, Garry Stanley, Michelle Stewart, Jeffry Techert and John Wick.

All of the students also completed two skills-based certificates, the nationally-endorsed Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Safety Module certification, which trains students to maintain a safe and productive work environment, as well as Critical Core Manufacturing Skills (CCMS) certificate, which trains students in “soft” skills areas such as problem solving, critical thinking, and working as part of a team.

The Machine Repair Boot Camp is funded in part by a Department of Labor, Employment and Training WIRED grant.

Gateway Technical College collaborates with communities in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties to ensure economic growth and viability by providing education, training, leadership and technological resources to meet the challenging needs of students, employers and communities.