



**News release**

February 17, 2010

Contact: Lee Colony 262.564.2512

262.359.0798 (cell)

**Gateway first in nation  
to offer geexchange drilling**

Gateway Technical College will become the first in the nation to begin offering geexchange drilling and overall geexchange system training with three course offerings later this month.

The first of three courses begins Feb. 22, and will train students in various geexchange drilling techniques and equipment used in this type of heating and cooling system.

“Gateway is the first college in the nation to offer training in geexchange drilling,” said Tom Niesen, Gateway HVAC and geexchange instructor. “There are colleges that train in oil and water, but none for the specific needs of this type of drilling.”

Manufacturers and other industry leaders have pointed to a shortage of qualified technicians in this expanding industry to promote the need for technician training.

A second course will begin Feb. 26, focusing on hands-on training to fuse piping. A final course to be held beginning Feb. 27 will focus on grouting and sanitation operations with a geexchange system.

The three classes represent the initial courses of a two-year geoexchange program being developed by Gateway. The development for the initial courses being held this month were partially paid for through a state grant. Development for the two-year geoexchange technician associate degree program was funded through a National Science Foundation grant awarded to Gateway last summer and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

For more information, please contact Tom Niesen at (262) 564-2610.

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 changing needs of students, employers and communities.

XXX