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Study Shows Positive Economic Impact on Communities Served

Gateway Technical College positively impacts job and investment opportunities, as well as increases business revenues and provides a positive return on investment for taxpayers. These are among the findings of a report reviewed today by the Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees.

(For complete report findings, see <http://econimpact.gtc.edu>)

The assessment was conducted by CCbenefits, a company that provides economic impact analysis on the benefits generated by community and technical colleges across the U.S. and Canada. The study was commissioned and funded by Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc.

Four types of benefits are tracked in the study: Regional Economic Benefits, including contributions to local job and income formation; Higher Earnings captured by existing students; a broad collection of Social Benefits; and the return on investment to taxpayers on their support of the college.

“Our Gateway Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors requisitioned this study to better understand and to be able to more clearly demonstrate what each of us felt by intuition—Gateway provides a vital service to its students and the

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communities it serves,” says Foundation Board president Dan Peterson, president of A&E Products. “Broad-based benefits exist for the individual student, but perhaps even more so for the employers of those students and the communities’ taxpayers.”

Gateway president Bryan Albrecht points out, “As I begin my presidency, it is heartening to learn of the vast array of excellent benefits experienced by our community because of Gateway Technical College. This report helps us understand where we have impact so we can maximize those benefits through new programs, such as the successful Boot Camp approach to concentrated training, in conjunction with the Workforce development centers, to meet critical workforce demands.”

“As Chairperson of the Gateway Board of Trustees and through my employment as Director of Kenosha County Human Services, I see an illustration of these numbers every day,” says Dennis Schultz. “People who learn English, people who develop skills, and people who can now move into an entirely new, better paying career, become contributing members of the community, rather than a drain on scarce resources. Gateway, more than any other institution, provides people with that opportunity.”

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Some key findings:

- Gateway operations and capital spending contributes roughly \$18.3 million to the regional income
- Gateway skills contributed to the workforce by workers who were trained at Gateway accounts for **\$339 million increase in regional income** in the Gateway District economy.
- The present workforce in Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth counties embodies over **2.5 million credit and non-credit hours** of past and present Gateway training.
- For every credit earned by a Gateway student, the state and local community will see **social savings of \$17 per year**. Savings may include those associated with better health, lower crime, and reduced costs of welfare and unemployment.
- State and local government will see a **rate of return of 5%** on their support for Gateway. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.
- Students benefit from higher earnings. The tax base expands and the tax burden on the community at large is reduced. Aggregated, students generate about **\$15.1 million annually in higher earnings** due to their Gateway education.

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- Gateway students will see their annual income increase, on average, by about **\$124 per year for every credit completed at Gateway during the analysis year.**
- An individual with a **Gateway Associate Degree will make 35% more per year than someone holding a high school diploma or GED.**
- Over the next 36 years in the workforce, the average Gateway student's discounted lifetime earnings will increase \$5 for every education dollar invested (tuition, fees, books, and foregone earnings from employment).

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.