

# Volume 3



SPRING  
**2019**

Foundation  
Access



GATEWAY  
TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE

**FOUNDATION**



Ram Bhatia's recipe for helping others is a potent blend: Education, coupled with paying it forward today – so others can continue to pay it forward tomorrow.

Ram had this in mind when he created the Bhatia Family Scholarship. His primary requirement: to award it to someone committed to gaining the skills to a career and a belief that college education can make that dream come true.

“It’s for someone who wants to turn their life around and stand on their own two feet – and, I feel, education is the best way to help them,” says Ram.

“I can’t emphasize that enough. You know the saying about giving someone a fish, or teaching them how to fish? I believe in teaching them how to fish. It’s then that they can stand on their own.”

Students Ram hopes to reach most are those who want it most, but can’t because of finances.

“What saddens me is to see people who really want to stand on their own two feet and want an education to do that – and can’t find the money or resources,” says Ram. “Their income, or their family’s income, is just not enough to make that happen. They have the passion, they have the drive, but they don’t have the resources. Those, really, are the students I want to help.”

Ram encourages others to do what they can to support students with whatever amount they feel they can contribute.

“My advice is don’t underestimate yourself and the impact you can have on a student’s life. That \$500 they receive in the scholarship might be just the right amount they need to continue their education – and impact their life.”



Ram serves on the Foundation board and is a Gateway Board of Trustees member. Over the years, he has become an outspoken champion for the Foundation and college education. He also became an advocate for the second part of his recipe: Paying it forward twice. Ram hopes that whomever he helps reach their career goals will feel inspired to help someone else in their future.

“Hopefully, when they are able, they can pass it along to the next generation. That would complete the circle and make me happy.”

The seeds to this have been planted even in his own family. Starting the scholarship was a family affair, with his wife, Geeta, and adult sons Shawn and Neil in on the discussion. One of the reasons the scholarship was named after the family is that Ram hopes his sons will someday take up the banner and continue to help others.

“My younger son has said ‘Maybe I should start my own scholarship.’ I want them to know this feeling of giving back to the community.”

## PAYING IT FORWARD

Scholarship perfect recipe for success

*“Their income, or their family’s income, is just not enough to make that happen. They have the passion, they have the drive, but they don’t have the resources. Those, really, are the students I want to help.”*

— Ram Bhatia

# VISION LEADS TO COLLEGE DEGREE

Student says scholarship uplifted and encouraged her



Three years ago, as Stacy Whetlow rejoiced at her daughter's first steps into a bright new future, she received a powerful vision of what her own future held.

She watched her daughter receive a Gateway Technical College degree at her commencement ceremony and knew right then what she wanted – to be in the same place, receiving her own Gateway degree.

And the Foundation played a role in making Stacy's vision a reality.

"I was sitting in the bleachers, watching my daughter graduate from Gateway. I watched the keynote speaker and said 'I want to do that. I want to sit down there and earn my own degree, too. And some day, I want to sit in the front row, too.'"

Stacy enrolled in Gateway, and great things have happened since then. She's made the dean's list every semester and is looking forward to earning her Human Service Associate degree and beginning a new career. "I saw all of this in a vision, all of it – and now it's coming to pass."

Another great event in her college career was receiving a Foundation scholarship. The Foundation's role to Stacy's success has been financial, as well as emotional, support.

"There was a large emotional component to receiving the scholarship. To me, it was an

encouragement and support to keep going, to keep working," says Stacy. "There was a financial component, to be sure, but I felt I got the encouragement I never received in my childhood, that support that says 'You matter to us, and you can do it.'"

"When I received the scholarship, it was like being told by the Foundation 'We see you, we want to encourage you and provide you with some financial relief so you can focus on your studies.'"

Stacy was an interior painter for 30 years and owned her own successful company for many years before the economy declined and she left the business. She accompanied her daughter when she first enrolled in Gateway and said she cried later on because she, herself, had also wanted to go to college but didn't because she felt intimidated by the prospect.

Watching her daughter helped her overcome those fears, and a Foundation scholarship further bolstered her resolve. Stacy says she plans to give back to others in the future like the Foundation helped her.

"I will be giving back. For me, it will come full circle," she said. "I will be giving back."

*"When I received the scholarship, it was like being told by the Foundation 'We see you, we want to encourage you and provide you with some financial relief so you can focus on your studies.'"*

*— Stacy Whetlow*

# RETIRED FIREFIGHTER PAYS IT FORWARD WITH ESTATE PLANNING

Contributes to fire  
sciences scholarship  
in his will



Rich Bosanko has seen Gateway Technical College training impact members of the fire service industry.

Whether it's those who've chosen it as a career or those who serve on a volunteer fire department, Rich has seen that training equals success.

He ought to know: Rich is a Gateway Technical College firefighter program graduate who retired in 2005 from a three-decade career in the fire service.

Rich believes in education so much that he's decided to pay it forward by endowing a fire science program scholarship upon his passing.

"I saw firsthand the result of education on those who had fire science degrees. It was a benefit to them, their departments, the community and the industry," said Rich.

"I know that education is very important, but I know the finances involved in obtaining that education. Some take time off to pursue a career full time, which can be difficult. I would like to help that student out to become a firefighter or paramedic."

Rich says paying it forward is important to him as he maps out his retirement strategy, and education is part of that. As he went through his estate planning, he felt it made financial sense to endow a scholarship upon his passing rather than right now. "In the long run, it's better off for the college and the students," he said.

Rich was hired as a career firefighter by the Kenosha Fire Department, where he served for 28 years, retiring as a battalion chief. He earned his Gateway Fire Science degree during his early years in Kenosha. He also served on the New Berlin and Bristol fire departments.

"I have seen firsthand for myself, and others, the importance of earning a fire science degree for those who want to pursue a career," says Rich.

"The fire service is constantly changing and evolving, and you need education to keep up with it. Rarely is this a career that you can do right out of high school, you need to have some type of training."



President Bryan Albrecht recently shared with local media that as he got to know Otto and Beverly over many years and years of giving, Otto let him know they were interested in “doing more.” Their “doing more” resulted in a more than \$800,000 gift that helped name Tarnowski Hall in the SC Johnson iMET Center at Gateway. Sadly, Otto passed away before Tarnowski Hall was completed. But Beverly was there for the ribbon cutting in 2013. I still remember how she glowed with joy that day. Beverly passed away in 2017. Otto and Beverly’s plans for Gateway ultimately came to include the bequest from their estate. Their gift will be used for the Gateway Promise Endowed Fund, the Tarnowski Student Emergency Endowed Fund, and manufacturing-related training.

The Tarnowskis’ generous hearts and commitment to the community will mean generations of students will benefit from the world-class education available at Gateway. While our assets and means may vary widely, all of us can make plans that reflect our values after we are gone. If you want to learn more about leaving your legacy to Gateway Technical College Foundation, please let me know. Bequests of any size will help generations of future Gateway students.

I welcome your communication about scholarships, planned giving, or any other topic related to Gateway or the Foundation at any time. You can reach me at (262) 564-2866 or charpentierj@gtc.edu.

Thank you,

Jennifer Charpentier, Ph.D, CFRE  
Executive Director  
Gateway Technical College Foundation



In early February, we celebrated Gateway students and Foundation donors at our annual scholarship awards ceremony. I was pleased to see so many of you at the ceremony. There is always such a feeling of joy in the room. Your generosity makes that happen.

Thank you for your inspiring support of our students. While we always highlight our student stories in Foundation Access, in this issue you will see many of the faces of our beaming scholarship recipients from our scholarship awards ceremony.

Gateway instructors Pat Hoppe and Randy Reusser along with many of their students established an endowed scholarship in memory of our daughter, Katy, who graduated with an associate electrical engineering degree in 2003. My wife, Debby, and I, along with my employer, Modine Manufacturing Company, made matching gifts in support of Katy’s scholarship fund.

Through the years, additional individuals have made contributions for the scholarship. Each year, we have had the pleasure of meeting recipients who are able to attend the awards ceremony or hearing their stories through the hand-written thank you notes the Foundation forwards on to us. We are grateful to have made a difference in the scholarship recipients’ lives.

Your support of Gateway students through the Foundation provides a critical investment in their future.

I hope to see you at next year’s ceremony.

Sincerely,

Fred Ganaway  
Board Chairman



# GARDEN CLUB COMMITMENT GROWS

## Group plants seeds to future for Gateway students

The Racine Garden Club's impact on the community extends into the future as far as it does into the past.

For the past 90-plus years, club members have provided a way for gardeners to connect with each other and engage in activities and programs related to their passion for horticulture.

But among their core passions is education. And, for as much as they've done for past generations, they've also made sure to provide a way to impact the future by investing in scholarships benefiting Gateway Horticulture students.

"We want to further the education of those who are interested in horticulture and want to do this as a career," said club president Lucretia "Lucky" La Meer. "I think it's important for people to become interested in this career field, and they need skills to succeed. The scholarships and Gateway provide that."

Lucky says the group has supported scholarships for more than 20 years, and they've shown their commitment on a number of levels. The club holds a garden tour every other year, and money generated from that is used to support Gateway scholarships.

"We started out with small amounts at first, what we could afford.

It became more and more important for us to do this, so we increased the amount. When a garden member passes, we donate a \$500 memorial amount for them that year. Four of our members passed away this year, so the total amount this year was \$3,000."

Lucky has seen the fruits of the scholarships through connecting with Gateway graduates who are now in the horticulture field themselves.

"There are students who've begun the program right out of high school, and those who have started it as a second career or later in life," said Lucky, who has met many of the scholarship awardees. "We've helped support single mothers and men who are in their second career.

"We are so proud that we can help these students. The thanks we receive, the pictures they send to us, the stories they tell us, and to see them gain an education and work - I feel so proud we are able to help in that."

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— *Lucky La Meer*  
Racine Garden Club president

# PREPARING HER FUTURE

Scholarships provide confirmation to student on her educational path

Tori Starkey received two Foundation scholarships, and each has left a lasting impression on her.

They've helped her monetarily, for sure. But she said the scholarships have done more than just that – they've given her the inspiration to continue to pursue her degree and dreams of entering the engineering career field.

“There are days when I feel unsure of whether I'm as successful as the other students. I am in a mostly male dominated field, and many of the students already have some type of knowledge and work in electronics before they come to Gateway. I don't have that background.

“To know that I was selected for a scholarship only confirms to me that this is what I should do, that this is a career I will succeed in – and there are people out there who really believe in what I do.”

Tori's enrolled in Gateway's Electrical Engineering Technology program.



She said her initial thought was that of gratitude of being selected for the scholarship.

“I was thankful that out of all the people who applied for the scholarship, I was accepted,” said Tori.

Tori earned the Women in Engineering Scholarship in 2018 and the Lang Family Foundation with A & E Tools Scholarship in 2017.

Tori will graduate in Fall 2019 but has already begun to use the skills she's gained at Gateway at an area employer. She says the college has given her the confidence and skills to obtain a family-sustaining career.

“I would like to thank all the donors. What they do is so amazing, and it really gives students the confidence boost and encourages us to work hard because we know there are people who believe in us.”



# INSPIRATION GRANT:

Gateway duo hopes to address mental health education, prevention

A Foundation Inspiration Grant was awarded and has helped Gateway instructors and students to better identify the warning signs of mental health issues. The Grant will be used to provide solid guidelines on the steps needed to reach out and help at-risk students.

Inspiration Grants are for faculty, staff or student groups to develop and implement high quality innovative projects.

Organizers say the two-pronged mental health prevention and education campaign has already shown results, and they hope it will continue to do so in the future.

“Students and faculty are engaging in it, they realize they might need to reach out for direction and help,” Gateway Student Support counselor Vicki Wahler, one of the two grant organizers, said.

Vicki said she and Mary Xiong, the other grant organizer, wanted to provide mental health education and prevention tools for Gateway employees and students in a format they could easily access – and provide initial help quickly and effectively.

Vicki said the effort began when a group of instructors asked how to identify whether a student was at risk for a mental health issue and what steps to take if the student was confirmed to have a mental health issue. They taught courses at night, and since most college offices were closed then, they felt they had no way to find out how to help their students.

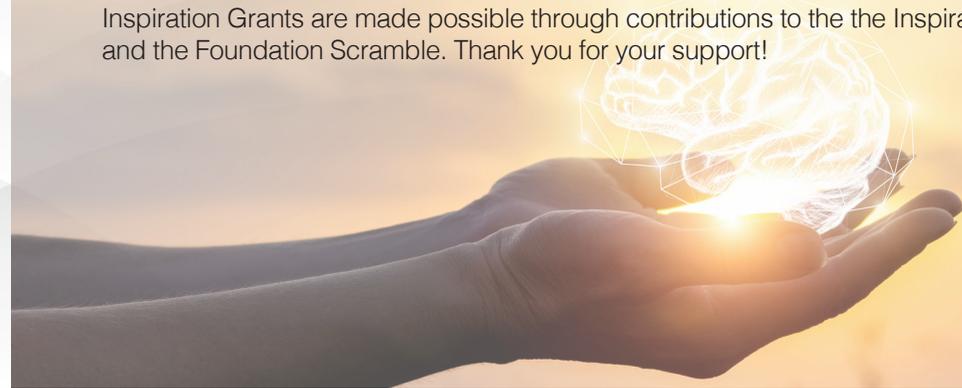
“As mental health issues on college campuses continues to rise, we want to lay some groundwork for early education and prevention,” said Mary, a Student Support specialist.

The first step was to provide a short mental health assessment on Gateway's website. The assessment can give some great initial guidance to students and instructors. As of mid-February, 61 staff and 19 students took the self-assessment.

The second step was a more in-depth training. It provided instructors with simulated student mental health scenarios and directions of how to deal with each, including how to refer students to a counselor and resources available to students.

“Later, two faculty came to me and told me that because of what they learned through this, they were able to handle a mental health issue in the classroom – and, to me, the effort came full circle,” said Mary.

Inspiration Grants are made possible through contributions to the the Inspiration Grant, Mission, and the Foundation Scramble. Thank you for your support!

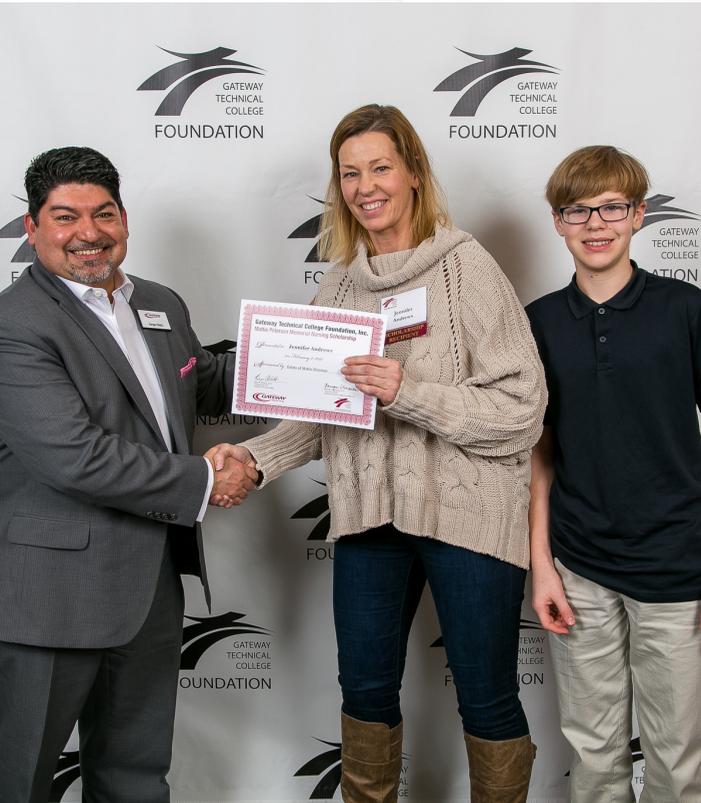


# FOUNDATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

The Foundation held its annual scholarship awards ceremony in February, a time to honor and celebrate the 208 students whose lives have been touched by the generosity of the thoughtful donors who support the Foundation.

Scholarships totaled more than \$164,000 and helped students fulfill their career and educational goals. Many of our students have told us they would be unable to continue their education without the support of a scholarship. Others have told us they feel honored to have received a scholarship and they feel it's a recognition of their hard work and determination to gain the skills to a career.

Thank you. We are grateful.



**\$164,250**  
Amount Awarded



**256**  
Scholarships Awarded



**208**  
Students Benefited





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*Igualdad de oportunidades / acceso / empleador y educador*

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FOUNDATION

**GOLF**  
with a  
**GOAL**



**Register now for  
the 25th Annual  
Gateway Technical College  
Foundation Scramble!**

**Thursday, May 23, 2019**

**NEW 11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start  
Hawk's View Golf Club,  
Lake Geneva**

**Sponsorship benefits available!**

[gtc.edu/FoundationScramble](http://gtc.edu/FoundationScramble)

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