



Gateway Technical College **Horizon Center**

Snap-on



an equal opportunity/access/employer and educator
ofrece igualdad en oportunidades/acceso/empleo y educación

Today's vehicles... are computers on wheels and it takes technicians who have skills, knowledge, and equipment never before imagined in the automotive industry.

Gateway Technical College, in partnership with Snap-on Incorporated, the Wisconsin Automobile and Truck Dealers Association (WATDA), community members, and many other industry partners have conceived, developed, and now celebrated the creation of Gateway's Horizon Center for Transportation Technology in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Horizon Center students, whether high school, college, or career professionals, are using educational and real-world technology that is the best, most advanced in the world. Some of the Snap-on tools and diagnostic equipment have yet to be introduced commercially.

Preparation for leading industry jobs

The Horizon Center curriculum and technology arsenal prepare graduates to jump-start their careers. Their first job will be much closer to the top of the technician career ladder. They are prepared to work in the most sophisticated dealership.

The program is taught through laptop computers that students purchase through their tuition and fee payments. The laptop is used to receive and complete coursework and is also plugged into training technology that simulates various automotive component repair challenges. Students learn through a multi-level process: downloaded lessons, educational simulators and hands-on in the automotive lab.

Work being completed in any of the thirteen repair bays can be broadcast on the two-story tall screen in the bay area, in the seminar area, any of the classrooms, or around the world. The seminar area (The Community Ideas Room) is both plush and practical. While attractively appointed, the room was designed so that a vehicle could be driven into the room for demonstration and discussion.

Seamless education

These technological advances are available to students along the entire automotive technician career path. A seamless educational opportunity has been created allowing high school students in their junior and senior years to take courses at the Horizon Center, earning credit toward high school graduation and college credit toward a Gateway Automotive Technology Associate Degree. Incumbent technicians are invited to take credit or continuing education courses and seminars to upgrade their skills.



Real-world Environment

The Horizon Center simulates a dealership's Service Center three days a week, year-round, so students can understand the scope of what they are trying to achieve in their career.

Need for skilled technicians

The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics and the Office of the President have identified Automotive Technicians as one of the high-growth jobs of the future. Technology has changed, which has created the need for new a technician skill base. In addition, retirements in this career area are expected to be particularly high over the next ten years. It is estimated that the more than 90,000 will become available.

Dealers have long recognized the need for new technician training. "My father had a long time dream of creating a place for automotive technicians to receive their initial or upgrade training to stay abreast with technology," says Andy Palmen of the Palmen Automotive Group, one of the largest dealers in the Midwest. We have been proud to sponsor the creation of the Horizon Center to fill this great need."