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March 2006

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Gateway - a Key Role in Economic Development

Gateway Technical College has developed a strong track record in recent years for its support of economic development of our region. A key role for Gateway in the economic development process is workforce readiness. You will read a number of stories in this edition of Community Connection that demonstrate that we see our role beginning, not just when a student enters our halls as a college student, but long before, when students are in middle or high school. And, our role continues long after a student achieves a degree. Gateway addresses the changing technology needs in all career areas with coursework, workshops, and customized training at the workplace.

Companies will only choose Southeastern Wisconsin for expansion or relocation if we have a workforce with the skills necessary to do the job.

As the counties of Southeastern Wisconsin work together on a joint plan to step up economic development for the region, we see Gateway's role continuing and expanding as the key provider of skills for tomorrow's jobs, supporting the technology infrastructure necessary to serve the



Bryan Albrecht - President,
Gateway Technical College

business community, and working with businesses on new processes and systems that will make them more competitive in the future. -- *Bryan Albrecht*

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Gateway Strongly Impacts the Economy of Southeastern Wisconsin

An independent study conducted on the economic impact of Gateway Technical College produced many exciting facts and figures on various ways Gateway contributes to the economy of its communities. Here are a few:

- Gateway accounts for 3.5% of the entire economy of Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties.
- The current workforce embodies approximately 2.5 million credit hours of Gateway study.
- Gateway graduates with a two-year Associate Degree earn 35% more than a high school graduate.
- Taxpayers realize a 5.4% return on their Gateway investment.
- 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.
- Gateway accounts for \$339 million increase in the regional income due to skills workers gained through their Gateway education.

The complete study is at www.gtc.edu/econimpact.

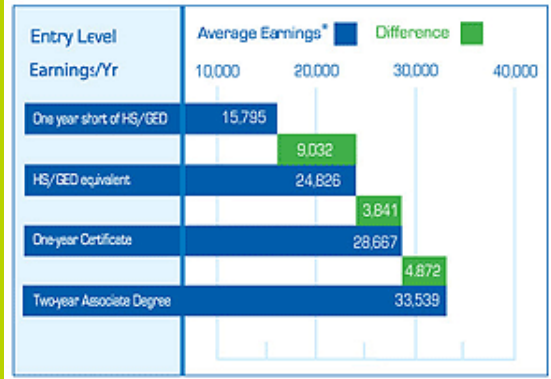
The study was commissioned by the Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc. and conducted by ccBenefits, Inc., which has completed more than 450 economic impact studies across the country with its proven model.

Some Examples of Impact: Employers enjoy greater productivity through Gateway Technical College

Toni Hansen, Ocean Spray Human Resources:

"In our facility, depending on the packaging size, we can bottle about 240 bottles a minute of our juice drinks. You can imagine the cost of having a machine go down for an unplanned downtime event for two to three hours," says Toni Hansen, Supervisor of Human Resources, Training and Development. "Working with the instructors at LakeView Advanced Technology Center, we developed customized

Average Earnings by Education Levels



Toni Hansen - Human Resources, Ocean Spray (top left), Kelly Kuhl (middle right), Gary Baase (bottom left)

training for our mechanics based on our particular needs. As a result, we have seen an improvement in our mechanics' ability to troubleshoot equipment problems. They approach solving them more systematically, which reduces unplanned downtime and, in many cases, prevents downtime from occurring in the first place."

Graduates and students get new careers and the lifestyle they've dreamed about

Kelly Kuhl was already a student at Gateway when she joined Beere Medical as an entry-level floor inspector. In less than a year, she was promoted to senior technician. And as her studies in Gateway's Quality Assurance program progressed, she was promoted to supervisor, and later to junior quality engineer.

Gary Baase says "Gateway instructors were always there to help." He also appreciated that his instructors had solid industrial experience. "They got me ready for the kinds of things I'd encounter in the working world. The financial aid personnel were terrific in helping me make my education a reality. Now, as a hardware engineer at Rockwell, my wife and I have achieved the lifestyle we hoped for."

Taxpayers Benefit From Gateway Grads' Contributions

Whether it's car accident, a heart attack, or asthma out of control, who you gonna call? Chances are, your 911 call will be answered by a paramedic holding a Gateway Technical College diploma. Nate Skewes is a firefighter/paramedic with the Union Grove/Yorkville Fire Department. He and his team, made up almost entirely of Gateway grads, answer 3 to 4 calls a day. "Particularly in a rural community where we are 20 minutes or more away from the nearest hospital, we are performing the same lifesaving efforts as what you would receive in the first 15 minutes of an Emergency Room of a hospital," says Skewes. Skewes, a 2004 paramedic graduate, appreciates all the hands-on training he received—over 1000 hours, in addition to classroom work. (Paramedics now require 1200 hours). "Gateway's program is known for its excellent instructors and program. I was able to pass my state and national board exams the first time—most Gateway graduates do." The call may be for broken bones requiring pain management, a bad asthma attack requiring medication, or getting a heart attack victim stabilized. Gateway grads save lives and maintain the comfort of their community's patients day in and day out.

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Secretary Gassman Pays Second Visit

Wisconsin Secretary of Workforce Development, Roberta Gassman, visited the Gateway district for a second time this year. Secretary Gassman took the opportunity to visit recipients of the Governor's Workforce Advancement training grants to better understand their businesses and how training provided by Gateway Technical College will positively affect their operations. More than \$72,000 of the training funds went to companies in the Gateway district. The February 24th visit was to Gormac Products, Inc., Racine.

Gassman also visited Gateway's Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation over a working lunch that included Racine Mayor Gary Becker, RCEDC Executive Director Gordy Kacala, Racine Workforce Development Executive Director Alice Oliver, and Gateway officials, including Bryan Albrecht, president, and Zina Haywood, executive vice president. A Gateway welding student, Joe Weitzel, also shared his experiences. Community leaders discussed the challenges and potential solutions of dealing with the large dropout rate in Racine schools, leading to an unskilled workforce coupled with the loss of yesterday's lesser skilled manufacturing jobs.

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Meet your Deans of Campus Affairs

Gateway Technical College has promoted three of its deans to the position of Dean of Campus Affairs. These positions have increased administrative responsibilities and are considered the senior-most administrator of their respective campus. Ron Sellnau will fill this position for the Elkhorn and Burlington Campuses, Ann Henderson for the Racine Campus, and Dennis Sherwood at the Kenosha Campus.

A key goal of Gateway President Bryan Albrecht is to unify the Gateway District campuses. His first decision was to eliminate the position of vice president/provost that existed at each of the campuses and consolidate that authority for all campuses under an executive vice president/provost for Academic and Campus Affairs. Zina Haywood was



Welding instructor Mark Uttech, Welding student Joe Weitzel, and Secretary Roberta Gassman



Racine Mayor Gary Becker and Secretary Gassman



Ann Henderson and Dennis Sherwood

appointed to that position in January.

The deans of Campus Affairs will supervise staff and administration of Student Services functions on their campuses, as well as educational assistance and support programs, facilities, campus budget and planning functions, and student discipline issues.

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Workforce Preparedness

Absolutely key to Gateway's mission is preparing individuals to be skilled members of the workforce. We believe our success begins with connections—working closely with our secondary school districts, partnering with area businesses, and cooperating with economic development and workforce development organizations. Our success continues with industry-savvy instructors who understand the workplace needs, career-based clubs, and with state-of-the-art lab equipment.

Some examples:

Middle and High School Outreach

Gateway Day @ LTA. Gateway introduced current and potential Kenosha Unified LakeView Technology Academy students to seven manufacturing related Gateway degree programs. The event was held at Gateway's LakeView Advanced Technology Center. Students took part in robotic demonstrations, CNC machining, plastics manufacturing, and more. Students learned of the high demand for skilled workers in manufacturing. They also learned how automated manufacturing is key to helping American manufacturing survive.

Pre-College Camps. Middle and high school students are invited to participate in any of seven Pre-College camps scheduled for this summer. Camps are designed to introduce youth to the latest in technology and help them understand how technology can be both fun and a career. Camp topics include: Combat Robot Prototyping, Wacky for Wireless, Do-It-Yourself Computer Building, Building a Multimedia Web Page, Biocamp, Microsoft Software, and 3D Modeling and Animation.

Gateway marketing students dominate state competition: The WMMA/DEX State Conference and



Ron Sellnau



For more information about LakeView Academy or LakeView Advanced Technology Center contact Debbie Davidson, Director of Advanced Technology Centers, davidsond@gtc.edu 262.564.3400)


www.gtc.edu/camps

Club Advisors Contact Information

Mike Vernezze (vernezem@gtc.edu; 262.564.2744) for information about the Kenosha Chapter and Marketing Associate Degree. John Gauthier (gauthierj@gtc.edu; 262.619.6420) about the Racine Chapter and Marketing Associate Degree.

BPA Advisors Contact Information

Tina Cipriano (ciprianot@gtc.edu; 262.741.8326; Administrative Assistant Associate Degree) and Ken Haling (halingk@gtc.edu; 262.741.8342; Accounting Associate Degree).

Competition offers marketing and design students an opportunity to compete in any of dozens of real-world individual, team, and chapter challenges. The Kenosha Campus GMMA was selected Chapter of the Year -- the eighth time they have claimed the honor since 1990. The Racine Chapter received awards for its Civic Consciousness Projects. Twenty-one students from the Kenosha Campus chapter and 14 members of the Racine Campus chapter participated in the events. Two Gateway students serve on the regional and state boards as officers. Most of these competitors will be participating in the International Conference and Competition April 21-25 in Dallas, Texas.

Gateway business students claim Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition awards:

Seven Gateway Technical College students claimed a total of 30 awards at a recent state conference of Business Professionals of America. The students are members of Gateway's Elkhorn Campus chapter of BPA. Competitors choose from over 40 categories designed to simulate real-world career challenges. In some cases they come in with a prepared presentation. In others, they come prepared with the skills and are given a task to complete on site. All seven will travel to Florida in May to compete in national competition.

Gateway IT-Programmer Analyst students work at professional conference: Six students volunteered their time to set up the labs and serve as lab support for the Wisconsin Midrange Computer Professional Spring Conference (WMCPA), held at Lake Lawn this month. This conference draws information technology experts from throughout the Midwest to become acquainted with the latest technologies and share best practices. Last year was the first time the organization allowed students to provide assistance. They were thrilled with Gateway students' level of professionalism and were eager to have Gateway assistance again this year. It is a great opportunity for students to get real-world experience, learn from the conference sessions, and make professional contacts.

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Programmer/Analyst students assist at WMCPA conference. Gateway instructor Jim Buck, students Michele Oksa, Chris Getter, Gateway President Bryan Albrecht, and students Mike Bastianelli, Ben Krug, Nick Arndt, and Chandra Kreig.

Gateway Bioscience Program Prepares for Future

With the recent announcement by Governor Doyle of economic development incentives and confirmation that Abbott has purchased extensive land along I-94 in Kenosha County, Gateway's Bioscience associate degree programs are well-positioned to prepare workers for tomorrow's jobs. Gateway offers two Bioscience options: lab technician and biomanufacturing.

Numerous careers, paying between \$27,500 and \$41,750 per year, await Gateway grads. Among those careers: Process Development Associate, Validation Specialist, Manufacturing Technician, Instrumentation Calibration Technician, Facilities Technician, Quality Control Technician, Environmental Health and Safety Technician, and Quality Assurance Documentation Coordinator.

Bioscience program classes are small to allow for individual instruction and real-world application projects. Classes are lab-oriented and integrated with state-of-the-art technology. Day and evening classes are designed to provide for flexible scheduling options.

As part of a program start-up, scholarships are available for any Bioscience student.

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Advisory Committee Profile

Programmer-Analyst Program—John Boswell

There is nothing we want to see more than an educational institution partnering with our industry to better understand the education and training necessary. I've been in the industry for about 30 years, working for nearly a dozen companies and many different industries ranging from nonprofits to trucking firms. In the past, I've tried working with other institutions, but until working with Gateway and the Programmer-Analyst program with instructor Jim Buck, they've always missed the mark. Gateway's program offers actual hands-on experience with the IBM i-Series equipment, which is the workhorse used in many, many industries today. Gateway is lucky to have Jim and his vast industry experience. Currently the advisory committee meets twice a year, but we are planning to meet at least quarterly to closely review curriculum. Our industry is rapidly changing and we want to give Jim the support he needs to match curriculum with the changing demands of



For additional information and a downloadable scholarship application, see www.gtc.edu/bioscience or contact **Barbara Kramer**.



Programmer-Analyst Program Advisory Committee Member, John Boswell, Manager Information Services, Partners Mutual Insurance, Waukesha

information technology.

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Lisa Lange

Lisa Lange, recently selected as this year's Gateway Technical College District Ambassador, feels "her world" has been broadened, expanded because of her decision to attend Gateway. The mother of two teenagers has worked in the dental field for 18 years as a Dental Assistant, but decided that, with college around the corner for her two kids, she would advance her skills so she could increase her income. Lisa is studying Dental Hygiene, a two-year program Gateway shares with Milwaukee Area Technical College.

"I wasn't sure I could do it—going back to school after all this time," says Lisa. That makes it all that more rewarding. College has increased my confidence level. It has introduced me to so many more people of all ages."

Lisa is even more pleased with the effect it has had on her relationship with her kids. "Now when I discuss the importance of finishing homework, I have much more credibility. I think I'm a good role model for my kids. We have a feeling of kinship."

"I think most of us fall into a rut and see only what is in front of us. Going to Gateway has caused me to look sideways and see many more possibilities. Yes, it was hard at first, but going back to school is like athletic training. You start slowly and build up tolerance and strength and then add some more." Lisa feels lifelong learning is very important and plans to take classes after she graduates because it keeps her mind active.

The Ambassador Awards is an annual competition throughout the state's technical colleges. Nominated by instructors, Ambassador candidates must give a presentation and pass certain criteria before one Campus Ambassador is chosen to represent the Gateway District. Lisa will attend the Wisconsin Technical College System Leadership Conference in Madison April 12 and 13, with the college Ambassadors representing the other 15 technical college districts in the state. District and State Ambassadors serve as speakers for graduation ceremonies and other college events, and represent the college as student perspective spokespersons in a variety of ways.



Lisa Lange

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New Gateway Website

If you are a regular visitor to Gateway's website www.gtc.edu, you will have noted a change over the past month. In addition to the upbeat new look, we hope to better serve you with a few key additions and changes:

The Employers section. This is a one-stop location for employers who are seeking the services provided by Gateway's Workforce and Economic Development Division (WEDD), which offers workshops and customized training to area businesses. Another page allows local businesses to post job opportunities to TechConnect.

Academics and Careers. This section is a searchable database that links you to career training program information. In many cases the program area provides typical jobs for which a Gateway graduate will qualify, salary ranges, and current job market status.

Prospective Students. We understand that students consider Gateway for a variety of training needs—full-time study, part-time study while working full time, occasional skill upgrade courses. This section speaks to each of these groups.

Gateway's communities are crying out for workers with a particular skill level. We are reaching out to high school students, offering them the opportunity to quickly train for a real career, offering a real salary. One of the ways we are trying to communicate is through a website specifically aimed at high school students www.gtc.edu/highschool. They better understand the advantages of their community's career and technical education outlet.

People want to get information NOW and Gateway continues to upgrade its services to meet that need.

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You're Invited! All-District Open House

We welcome you to join us May 3 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. for our second annual All-District Open House. Each of our campuses/centers and advanced technology centers will be open to the public. We invite you to take part in career-based demonstrations, register for summer and fall classes, and visit our state-of-the-art labs. Drawings for



www.gtc.edu

If you have comments or suggestions about the Gateway websites, email our [webmaster](#).

www.gtc.edu/highschool



It's about you.

Your career • Your future • Your success



Open House!

prizes, including iPods and a tuition voucher, will be held. It's a great opportunity for you to send your employees over to a campus to learn how they can upgrade their skills and become a more productive worker for your business.

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You may email questions or comments about Community Connection to Jayne Herring at herringj@gtc.edu or Lee Colony at colonyl@gtc.edu

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www.gtc.edu/openhouse
May 3rd 3-7 p.m. All Gateway Campuses