

communityconnections



[Subscribe & Connect](#) | [Archives](#) | [Current Issue](#)

January 2007

Previous Issues:

- [Welcome](#)
- [Important Changes to Support Automotive Industry](#)
- [Gateway Invests in Renaissance Park Site](#)
- [Telecommunications Industry Training Comes to CATI](#)
- [Employers Discuss Gateway Relationship](#)
- [Legislative Breakfast Creates Helpful Dialog](#)
- [Manufacturing Skills Standards Luncheon](#)
- [Renewable Energy Summit](#)
- [Gateway Extends Opportunities to its Graduates](#)
- [Career and Tech Education Month](#)
- [Gateway—Historic First International Visit](#)
- [Gateway to Host College Goal Sunday](#)
- [Meet the Gateway Technical College Foundation President](#)
- [Diverse Audience Celebrates the Ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Welcome

It was a proud morning last week at our Legislative Breakfast when several of our area legislators dubbed Gateway Technical College and its efforts to train our communities' workforce, an "economic engine." It was confirmation that we are on the right track to serving our key communities: students, employers, and the taxpayers through our efforts.

As you read a number of stories in this edition of Community Connection, you will see aspects of how we have taken a leadership role in improving the area's economy. We are improving the educational level and delivery environment of our automotive programs, ensuring graduates will be prepared for the high-tech demands of the industry. We are hosting or sponsoring workshops and conferences to help our employers improve their workplaces. We provide customized training and seek grants to support specific training needs of employers. We are broadening the educational experiences of our students and instructors to become better prepared for the global economy.

THAT'S what career and technical education is today. An economic driver for its communities—preparing employers, employees, and



Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College
President

tomorrow's career professionals for success and growth.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Important Changes to Support Automotive Industry

Gateway's Horizon Center for Transportation Technology will open with the Fall 2007 semester. The Horizon Center, formerly the Aviation Center on Hwy H, just north of 52nd Street, will be home to all transportation programs—the Automotive programs and Aeronautics-Pilot Training. Utilizing leading-edge technology, the center will prepare students for careers in the rapidly changing and growing field of automotive technology.

- Support workforce training to meet the highest industry skills standards.
- Counteract shortages by addressing the growing need for trained and certified vehicle technicians and instructors.
- Establish a world-class, state-of-the-art facility to jointly serve high schools, colleges, and career professionals.
- Advance the highest value, most versatile aeronautic-pilot training in the Midwest.
- Create an aligned transportation career path that successfully engages motivated area high school students in their education and a future career. The transportation curriculum seamlessly guides the student through high school and college and into the workforce.
- Leverage Gateway and the resources of Southeast Wisconsin to advance a national-scope professional transportation training center that meets local industry needs.

Students will graduate prepared for the most sophisticated operations, such as the luxury vehicle service environment.

Some of the enhancements for the students' benefit:

- Operations exactly simulating a Service Shop three days a week, all year long
- Courses and training available throughout the entire year so students can complete their degree more quickly
- The most up-to-date diagnostic and training technology used by technicians
- Functionally comparable training to that of the recognized national automotive education leaders at:
 - One-tenth the cost
 - A local location

The facility and an advanced automotive curriculum will be made available to Gateway District high schools who wish to partner with



Gateway Technical College **Horizon Center**

For more information about the educational programming planned for the Horizon Center, contact instructor Bob Braun, 262.564.3138 or braunr@gtc.edu

For information on how your business can support and be a part of the Horizon Center, contact Gateway Foundation Director, Ken Vetrovec; 262.564.2866 or vetroveck@gtc.edu

the Horizon Center for a seamless transition for their students into this advanced automotive technology opportunity. Kenosha Unified School District has already signed on for this program.

Other Gateway program developments in the planning stage include a Diesel-Biofuel program.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Gateway Invests in Renaissance Park Site

Gateway Technical College is making a number of strategic decisions that will lead to expanded use of its Sturtevant Center, the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation or CATI. Because of its location near a major highway into Racine, proximity to I-94, and location within a growing corporate park, Gateway leadership is positioning the Center for expansion.

The Engineering Technology Wing will be moving its several engineering technology associate degree programs from the Racine Campus to CATI beginning in August 2007—the Fall Semester. Approximately 100 students will attend during the day and another 100 at night. To accommodate for student vehicles, Gateway will engage in a long-term, no-cost lease arrangement with the Racine Water Utility to develop land below the water tower to the south of CATI. The lot will accommodate 94 new spaces, including 4 disabled-accessible spots. This will allow for students as well as for tenant and event/visitor parking. The Racine County Economic Development Corporation, the Small Business Development Center, and CATI, Inc., as well as several incubator businesses have offices at the Center.

Gateway is poised for potential future expansion at the Center. The Gateway Board recently approved the purchase of the lot adjacent to the north of CATI. The three acres are valued at \$270,000. Payment for the land will be covered by the sale of unused property located on Lake Avenue near Gateway's downtown Racine Campus. That property is valued at \$360,000. While Gateway has no specific plans or timeline for future expansion of CATI, the Center will be at capacity when the Engineering Tech Wing moves there. It is anticipated that any programming will be complementary to the offerings at the Center when the need becomes compelling.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Telecommunications Industry Training Comes to CATI

With the growth of the telecommunications industry, job opportunities are expected to increase. Multimedia offerings and new forms of telecommunications place additional technological demands on



For more information about the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation contact Debbie Davidson, Executive Director, Advanced Technology Centers davidsond@gtc.edu



For more information about the telecommunications advanced technical certificate contact Randy Reusser, Gateway

telecommunications networks. Advanced optical switching and routing equipment is required for extending high speed communications to a broader customer base.

To meet this demand, Gateway will offer an Advanced Technical Certificate in Telecommunications beginning in August for the Fall Semester. Each course is one credit and will lead to a 12-credit certificate. The certificate will be particularly useful to those interested in or already working as telecommunications line installers or repair technicians, electronic home entertainment equipment installers, home automation installers or repair technicians, networking infrastructure specialists, or an inside-plant installer.

The courses will be utilizing a new electronics lab, industry certified by BICSI, at Gateway's Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI), Sturtevant. The lab is a simulated work environment where students can practice dealing with every type of modern telecommunication connection required in the today's telecommunications industry. Students will be able to complete the connections and be able to troubleshoot and repair defective connections.

Belden is the leader in design, manufacture, and marketing of cable products for the entertainment, residential, and industrial, and security markets. Gateway's CATI Center will become Belden's Regional Licensed Training Center beginning in March of this year, training their employees in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Employers Discuss Gateway Relationship

An important part of Gateway's Vision 2012 is the Gateway Experience, which includes a commitment to provide excellence to all constituents, consistently exceeding expectations, having constituents voicing their satisfaction, and referring others to the college. The Gateway Experience, as it relates to business and industry partners, was the topic of a Committee of the Whole meeting of the Gateway Technical College District Board of Trustees on Thursday, January 25.

Gateway staff and the Board members heard from a sample of employers about their Gateway Experience including successes, challenges, and what Gateway could do additionally to meet their needs.

Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., Kenosha: Toni Hansen, human resources, discussed the five-year training relationship their company has had with Gateway. Their maintenance mechanics needed to achieve a specific level of skill. Through assessments and a customized training program, they achieved their goals. They

Telecommunications Instructor,
262.619.6898; reusserr@gtc.edu




continue to update through their high-demand “Technical Tuesday” training program with Gateway. Sixty-three slots are filled by those who want to upgrade skills in technical areas. They also use Gateway resources for their “Tuesdays at 2” professional development workshop for their salaried workforce. Ocean Spray has been extremely pleased with the development of their employees, which has improved productivity. Their only request would be for more time/space availability at Gateway’s LakeView Advanced Technology Center. It is the most convenient training location for their workers, but the facility is in high demand by both Kenosha Unified and by Gateway for regularly scheduled classes and boot camps and it is often hard to schedule customized training there.

LDV, Inc., producer of mobile Command Post vehicles, Burlington, WI. Steve Vasatko talked about the successful effort led by Gateway to help secure a grant through the Governor’s office to train their employees when their workforce almost doubled in the wake of 9/11. The company produces Command Post vehicles used in Homeland Security programs, media, and assorted other uses. Vasatko discussed how Gateway helped them in electronics training and reported that they foresee a need for additional electronics training that combines elements from several traditional electronics training tracts.

Snap-on Incorporated, Kenosha, producer of diagnostic and repair tools and equipment for the automotive/transportation industry, works with Gateway on initiatives that will improve the training of automotive technicians. They partnered with Gateway on a Department of Labor Grant designed to upgrade high school and college automotive programs to the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) certification. Snap-on is currently involved in Gateway’s development of a state-of-the-art training facility for the automotive industry—Gateway’s Horizon Center for Transportation Technology. Frederick Brookhouse, Snap-on Director for Education and Business Development, says the Gateway Horizon Center will be a national model for creating a high-caliber qualified employee for the now high-tech automotive service industry.

Bruce Jensen of Bert Jensen and Sons, Inc., a metal fabrication job shop in Racine which serves a number of clients requiring small volume/large sized customized fabrication work, says they expect to double their business over the next five years, requiring 60 additional welders in the next three years. Due to resource constraints—such as lack of facilities, Gateway was having difficulty meeting Jensen’s demand (which is mirrored throughout southeastern Wisconsin). Although 70 welding-related course sections are offered throughout the Gateway District, courses are at capacity. There was no space to provide a welding Boot Camp (intense training over an eight-week period, qualifying for entry level positions) similar to those offered for CNC machining. Jensen & Sons provided an unused space in their

The Snap-on logo is displayed in a stylized, italicized red font with a registered trademark symbol.A photograph of a welder wearing a protective mask and gear, working on a metal component. The welder is positioned on the left side of the image, and the metal part is on the right. The background is dark, and the welder's mask is illuminated.

**Bert Jensen
& Sons, Inc.**

shop to Gateway and the Racine Workforce Development Center to set up the welding booths. Jensen hired three of the completers—an employer can only incorporate a few inexperienced workers at a time. Jensen says he hopes that Gateway can find a way to expand its capacity to meet his and other area employer’s high-demand training needs.

Each of the employers was pleased with the results of their partnership with Gateway and looks for increased grant or government financial support for their workforce development efforts.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Legislative Breakfast Creates Helpful Dialog

Legislators, students, board members, K-12 leadership, and staff gathered at Gateway’s Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation January 26 to discuss public policy and career and technical education.

Participants left with a better understanding of their elected officials’ stance on technical education, how their committee memberships intersect with education, understanding of the challenges faced by lawmakers, and how to ensure their thoughts about Career and Technical education are heard by legislators.

The legislators heard from Lisa Lange, Gateway Technical College’s District Student Ambassador. She petitioned the legislators to do their part to ensure that these three Gateway Technical College benefits continue:

- Economy/Value... continue and increase support to maintain technical college’s low-cost/high-value tuition.
- Flexibility in scheduling... much of which is enabled through investment in distance learning technology.
- Experience... Lange says a huge benefit to a Gateway education is graduates leave college with real-world experience. Legislators should support efforts to increase transfer of credit opportunities between technical colleges and state universities. The state should also create more shared program opportunities between the institutions.

Lange pointed out that she is looking forward to graduating and reminded legislators that she is sure to be making higher wages and paying more in taxes—underlining a chief benefit to a Gateway education.

Several of the legislators expressed their support for Gateway’s services to the community, calling the college “the economic engine” and stating that high school counselors must be made to understand



Lisa Lange, Gateway District Student Ambassador



All Legislators representing the Gateway district were invited.

the importance of a technical college education. For a large percentage of students, they said, Gateway, with its mission to train so many of the community's workforce, should be positioned as the first choice.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Manufacturing Skills Standards Luncheon

Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth County manufacturers have an opportunity to learn more about an important initiative designed to support the advancement of manufacturing and the industry's employees.

A luncheon February 22 at Gateway's CATI Center, Sturtevant, will host the CEO of the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC), Leo Reddy. He will speak on the national movement toward certification, building a qualified manufacturing production workforce, and how local business partners can access this national credentialing tool.

The MSSC is a nationwide system of industry-led standards, training, assessment, and certification for production and production-support workers. In 2005, the MSSC launched its new core knowledge and skills assessment to qualify workers as MSSC-Certified Production Technicians—an industry-recognized, nationally portable credential. Gateway Technical College's LakeView Advanced Technology Center, Pleasant Prairie, was certified as one of the first assessment centers in the country.

"The MSSC System provides industry with a new set of tools to ensure that both entering and incumbent workers are flexible, easily trainable, and highly motivated 'knowledge workers' in the high-performance work organizations of the 21st Century," says James McCaslin, president and COO, Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

[\[back to top\]](#)



MSSC luncheon with Leo Reddy

Date: Thursday February 22, 2007

Time: 11:30 -1:00 p.m.

Location: Center for Advanced Technology
and Innovation

2320 Renaissance Boulevard, Sturtevant, WI
53177

To Register: contact Debbie Davidson
262.564.3422 or davidsond@gtc.edu

Renewable Energy Summit

As a service to our area manufacturers and other employers and educators, Gateway Technical College joins other colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) in sponsoring the 2007 Renewable Energy Summit, "Opportunities in Renewable Energy: Workforce, Manufacturing, Technology, and Innovation." The Summit will be held March 8 from 1:30-8:00 p.m. and March 9 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Milwaukee Area Technical College, 700 West State Street.

The summit will feature expert speakers discussing the latest in emerging renewable energy technologies and advances in public policy, education, and industry. Conference presentations are directed towards those businesses that use or are involved in renewable energy, technology developers, educators and researchers, elected officials, and policy makers.

Contact WTCS (information at right) for up-to-date registration and program information.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Gateway Extends Opportunities to its Graduates

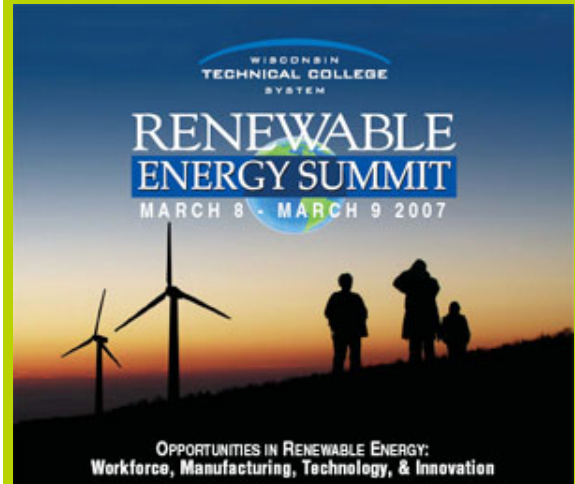
Gateway Technical College signed two agreements recently that extend opportunities for its graduates of associate degree programs to continue on for a bachelor's degree at regional educational institutions.

Criminal Justice

Gateway Technical College and Concordia University Wisconsin signed an agreement in January which allows graduates of Gateway's Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement Associate of Applied Science Degree program to transfer into Concordia's Management of Criminal Justice Bachelor of Arts Degree program. Under this agreement, Gateway students, who meet admission criteria of Concordia University Wisconsin, School of Adult Education, may apply for admission and are guaranteed transferability of specific academic coursework.

This allows Gateway Criminal Justice graduates to apply all sixty-six of their Gateway program credits toward a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Management. A total of 128 credits will be required for the Concordia bachelor's degree.

"We are pleased to provide this opportunity to Gateway graduates," says Bryan Albrecht, Gateway president. "Gateway graduates leave our college with the skills they need to excel in a law enforcement career. Our graduates now will have the opportunity to gain



For more information or to register, contact Bob Gilbertson, WTCS 608.576.3434 or rgilbertson@wtcsf.com



Concordia signing: From Gateway, Zina Haywood, Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs; Bryan Albrecht, President; From Concordia University, Dr. Steve Montreal, Director of the Management of Criminal Justice Program



management education at Concordia, which will position our graduates for jobs with greater responsibility and, in turn, will have the ripple effect of enhancing the quality of our community's law enforcement departments," added Albrecht.

Civil Engineering

Gateway Technical College and Marquette University, Milwaukee, signed an agreement December 15 which allows graduates of Gateway's Civil Engineering Technology Associate Degree program to transfer into Marquette's Civil Engineering Bachelor of Science Degree program. Under this agreement, Gateway Civil Engineering Technology students will receive up to 39 credits towards the Marquette program. The transfer student would enter Marquette University as a sophomore.

Gateway's Civil Engineering Technology program features three tracks: architectural/structural, public works, and survey. The program is currently housed at the Racine Campus, but will move with the entire Engineering Technology Wing to the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI Center) in Sturtevant next fall. Civil Engineering Technology classes will continue to be offered in Elkhorn, using an innovative distance learning system.

The demand for civil engineers is growing rapidly, particularly in southeastern Wisconsin due, in part, to the number of major highway reconstruction projects and residential/commercial expansion occurring now and on the horizon.

"This agreement allows students who might otherwise not be financially able to seek an advanced level career in the growing field of Civil Engineering to do so," says Gateway Civil Engineering instructor Steve Whitmoyer. Both Gateway Technical College and Marquette University offer financial aid and other financial credits, scholarships, and other financial assistance tools.

The Gateway graduate is also work-ready and could choose to become employed in the field while attending Marquette. "We encourage our students to obtain jobs in the field between our first and second years," says Whitmoyer. "Second-year core classes are only offered at night so the student can continue working, gaining experience. Marquette also encourages students to obtain job experience through a Co-Op position. Experience gained while at Gateway should enhance the student's opportunities to secure a preferred Co-Op assignment."

"We are very excited about establishing this agreement with Gateway and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial working relationship," says Mike Switzenbaum, Marquette University chair of the Civil Engineering Department.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Career and Tech Education Month

February is Career and Technical Education month. It is a special time for education, employers, and employees to celebrate the partnership they share that benefits the local and national economy, as well as individuals who become successful in their chosen field.

The Executive Director of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the national advocacy and professional development organization, Jan Bray, visited Gateway in December.

“We talk regularly with Congress,” says Bray. “Major issues they hear about as elected officials, include workforce preparation, filling worker shortages in particular skilled trade and health care worker areas, and a need for increased productivity and automation to compete globally. My goal is make sure they understand Career and Technical Education is the answer to these issues!”

What IS Career and Technical Education?

Career and technical education is about helping students, workers, and lifelong learners of all ages fulfill their working potential. First and foremost it's about high school and college education that provides students with:

- Academic subject matter taught with relevance to the real world, often called contextual learning.
- Employability skills, from job-related skills to workplace ethics.
- Education pathways that help students explore interests and careers in the process of progressing through school.

But career and technical education is also about:

- Second-chance education and training for the unemployed and those seeking to upgrade their employability skills.
- Education to earn additional degrees, especially when related to career advancement.
- Corporate training, continuing education, skills upgrades, and refresher courses for those already in the workplace.

[\[back to top\]](#)



Janet Bray, Executive Director of ACTE
Questions about ACTE can be addressed to the local organization, Gateway Association of Career and Technical Education (GACTE).
President Stephanie Slab, sklbas@gtc.edu.

Gateway—Historic First International Visit

Gateway instructors and administrators in February, and students in March, will make Gateway's first international educational visit in the college's long history.

A group of instructors will travel to Hesse, Germany, February 4 to make final arrangements for the students' visit. March 10, five Gateway students will have similar opportunities to travel to Germany. Information Technology students will travel to Hesse, Germany for two weeks. The students will complete a networking and web site project that will enable Gateway to host a website for the German organization, and they will host a Gateway web site. The students are already in electronic dialog with their German project teammates.

Tom Treptow is studying networking and computer support at Gateway, while working full time at GE Medical Systems. He will be going to Germany. "I work for an international company and have had some experience working with people from other countries. It's a global economy and I want the opportunity to learn more about working in another place."

Nate Barker is the president of Gateway's new Global Scholars Club and vice president of Gateway's Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP). He says, "IT is a discipline that bridges the gap between countries...between languages." He's looking forward to the new experience.

James Conley lost his job when his company closed its doors. "I came to Gateway because I knew I needed a career, not just a job. This is one more opportunity to learn more about setting up an IT network, with the added twist of learning about the German culture."

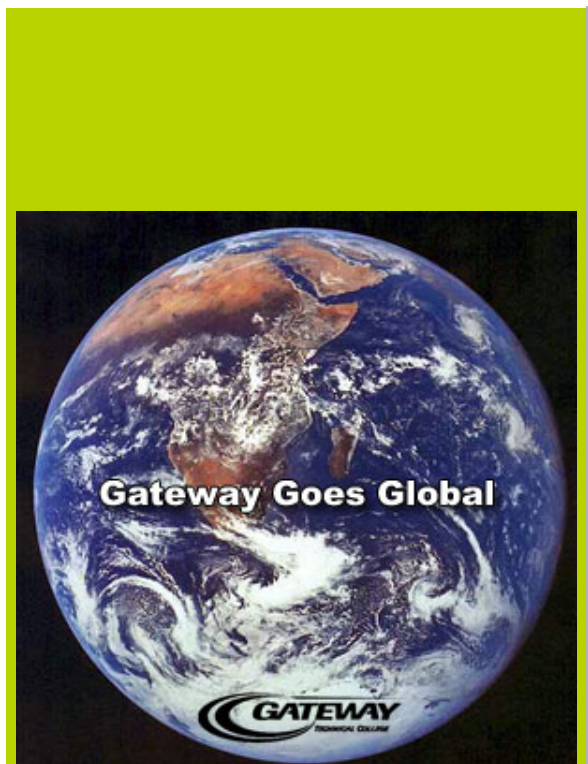
[\[back to top\]](#)

Gateway to Host College Goal Sunday

Gateway Technical College is one of 15 locations hosting Wisconsin's College Goal Sunday event on February 11. The afternoon event will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Center located in the Racine Building on Gateway's Racine Campus, 1001 Main Street.

"So many more qualify for financial aid than apply," says Gateway director of Financial Aid, Janice Riutta. "Nearly 95% of all those who apply for financial aid at Gateway receive some sort of assistance—loans, grants, workstudy."

Financial aid professionals and volunteers will provide free assistance



For information about Gateway's international efforts, contact Denise Schneider, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President. 262-741-8510 or schneiderd@gtc.edu.



More information on this state-wide event can be found at

www.wicollegegoalsunday.org or by calling Gateway Director of Financial Aid, Janice

to students and parents in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The FAFSA is the standard form used to apply for federal, state, and other institutional aid.

Riutta points out, "We find that students don't understand that it can take two months or more for financial aid—the FAFSA—to get processed, once it is completed online and sent in. They make the important decision to continue their education a couple of weeks before the semester starts and then can't attend because they don't have the money. We want to help potential students blast through that barrier to their future," adds Riutta.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Meet the Gateway Technical College Foundation President

The Gateway Technical College Foundation board president is David Richmond. He replaces Dan Peterson, whose term ended in Fall 2006. Richmond is a retired school superintendent from the Waterford School District and he was once chairperson of the Gateway Technical College District Board of Trustees, so is quite familiar and supportive of the Gateway mission. Currently, he serves as president of the Village of Waterford.

Under his leadership, the focus of the Foundation will be on strengthening "friendraising" and fundraising efforts in the community; developing board committee structure; and advocating on behalf of the College.

Anyone desiring more information about the Gateway Technical College Foundation, or interested in serving on one of their committees, is encouraged to call 262-564-2866 or email Foundation@gtc.edu.

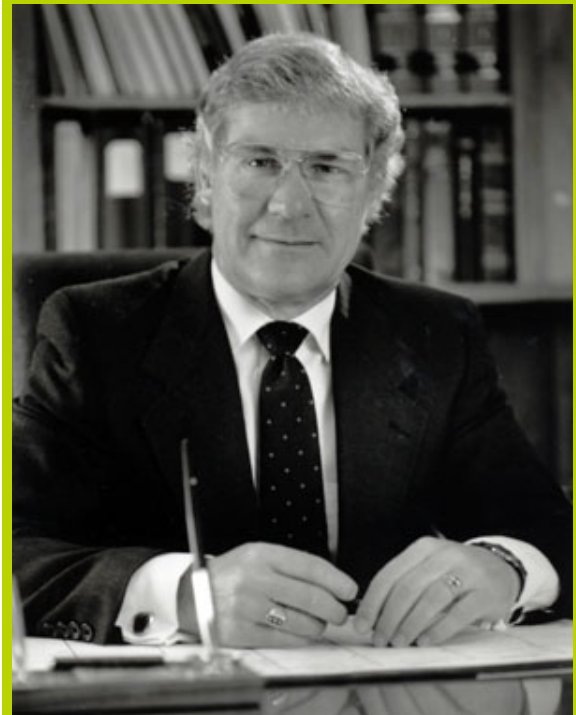
[\[back to top\]](#)

Diverse Audience Celebrates the Ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community members from Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties—all ages, all races—gathered at noon January 15 for Gateway's 13th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. This year's theme was "Realizing the Dream Through Your Action, Your Leadership."

Timothy Mahone, chairman of the Mary Lou Mahone Foundation, served as the keynote speaker. Among a number of excellent and thoughtful presentations, three students of the 21st Century School, Racine, captured the audience with their dramatic delivery of poetry

Riutta, 262.564.3072. (Photo courtesy of Kenosha News.)



David Richmond



To view unedited, archived streamed video of the event, [click here](#).

depicting their thoughts about urban life, views, and culture. Katherine Marks, chief professional officer of the United Way of Kenosha County and a Kenosha alderman, served as emcee.

You can view the archived, unedited streaming video online—see link to the right.

Five individuals were honored with Humanitarian Awards. The 2007 adult recipients are Mary Joy Madrigrano, support of numerous youth and sporting initiatives; and Seyoum Mengesha, efforts on behalf of minority-owned business. Youth recipients included Korey L. Hodges, Diversity Circles leadership; Courtney Maple, volunteerism; and Kelsey Swiatko, collecting over 5,000 pieces of underwear for those in need.

[\[back to top\]](#)

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

Get Connected! Tell a friend or colleague about Community Connection. [Click Here](#)

To unsubscribe, please [Click Here](#)