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November 2007

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Sowing the seeds of the future

While November 1 might seem an odd time to plant a seed - that is exactly what happened at Gateway Technical College's Madrigano Auditorium.

The seeds that were planted were in the form of 60 scholarships awarded at the Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc. 2007 Scholarship Awards event. Students from a number of different programs meeting many different requirements were awarded scholarships in amounts ranging from \$150 to \$1,000.

Scholarships are seeds the community plants in the college through its student leaders. Through those awards and the joy and pride that come from them will sprout a meaningful education - and the tools for a high quality of life.

The scholarship programs represent really what the college is about: community and students.

The scholarships exemplify the ties a college has with its community. They are a declaration of the commitment individuals and businesses have to ensuring tomorrow's leaders have the financial tools to finish their degree or



Bryan Albrecht
President, Gateway Technical College

training. It rewards students for their efforts and gives them that extra boost – if you will, education edification.

It is also an example of the caring the community, individuals, and businesses have for a loved one – and for the students of Gateway Technical College. Many of the donors have set up the scholarships in the name of a deceased loved one who benefited from a Gateway education. For others, it is a scholarship they themselves set up because of their own Gateway experience. And finally for some, such as those in business, it might be to encourage students to follow a career path similar to their own – and they believe in the leaders of tomorrow by helping them financially today.

Please join me in congratulating the student scholarship recipients for showing the commitment and drive in their studies. Also allow me to thank you, the community and donors, for showing your care and concern for the students of Gateway and planting the seeds of education.

It will be wonderful to watch these seeds prosper.

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German students visit Gateway Technical College

Six foreign exchange students from Hanau, Germany, visited Gateway Technical College this semester as part of the college's ongoing foreign exchange program.

Students visited the college in September and October and participated in a number of Gateway-organized learning opportunities, on campus as well as at several local businesses which do business in the global marketplace.

The German students are enrolled in a Dual System of Apprenticeship program at Kaufmannischen Schule, a German educational institution. The students' goal was to learn about typical American manufacturing and service organizations as well as the educational system. As part of their three-week visit, students toured S.C. Johnson, Jelly Belly, Chrysler, and Harley Davidson, and job shadowed at specific businesses.

Students also kept in touch with their families through Gateway-fueled technology and were able to hear and see their family through IP videoconferencing on a large screen at the Center for Bioscience and Information Technology on the Kenosha Campus while their families were at a similar site in Germany.



German foreign exchange student Alexandra Rudel introduces her host mother, Gateway counselor Ginger Buehner, to her family during a videoconference. The foreign exchange students were able to visit with their parents – who were in Germany – through the Internet equipment at the Center for Bioscience and Information Technology on the Kenosha Campus.

The exchange students – five females and one male – hold a number of apprenticeships in Germany while attending school. Those companies helped pay for their exchange experience.

Five Interior Design students from Gateway will travel in January to Hanau to learn from their German counterparts as part of the exchange program.

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Literacy Council honors Gateway with champions award

The Kenosha Literacy Council honored Gateway Technical College and the Kenosha Public Library for their support of the council and being champions of adult literacy in the community at its 42nd Annual Recognition Brunch.

The Council presented its Literacy Leader Award to Gateway and the Kenosha Public Library for their support of the Council. Kenosha Literacy Council Executive Director Mary Jane Landry-Wilkins said the award recognizes Gateway's vision and collaborative programs that have enhanced adult literacy learning opportunities in southeastern Wisconsin.

"Gateway works to remove employment barriers by providing literacy education for jobs," Landry-Wilkins said. "Some of the college's literacy contributions include providing English as a Second Language and adult basic education on all campuses, utilization of an adult basic education advisory committee, and expansion of online learning and library resources to adult students."

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Business Alliance to honor Gateway for Horizon Center

Gateway Technical College will receive an award for its state-of-the-art Horizon Center for Transportation Technology and the quality training it will make possible for students and area automotive industry professionals.

The Kenosha Area Business Alliance and the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce will present the Economic Impact Award to Gateway at its Third Annual Business Awards Dinner, November 8, at the Best Western Harborside Inn, Kenosha.



The Horizon Center for Transportation Technology. Gateway Technical College will receive an award from the Kenosha Area Business Alliance for its work on the Horizon

The award is given to a Kenosha-area business which has demonstrated a commitment to the community, its customers, and its employees by enhancing the work environment, according to the award guidelines. The guidelines also state the commitment is reflected in a tangible and substantial investment of resources toward the organization's functional and aesthetic attributes.

The new transportation technology center will train highly skilled auto technicians to compete locally and nationally in today's increasingly complex and technological automobile service environment.

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Deborah J. Ambrose honored with Human Services Student of Month

Deborah J. Ambrose of Racine has been named Human Services Student of the Month for October.

Ambrose, who began at Gateway Technical College in August 2005 and will graduate in December, was nominated for the award by human services instructor Dennis Markus.

Markus said Ambrose is a model student who is strong academically and has a positive attitude.

"She really enjoys learning," Markus said. "She's interactive in the classroom, both with instructors and other students. She's active with clubs. She is helpful to other students. She is a very good adult learner – she exemplifies what a good human services student is."

Ambrose said she was "overwhelmed" by the award, which is given out monthly to a human services student for going above and beyond what is required of them.

"I am thankful that they chose me," Ambrose said.

Ambrose said she is looking to enter the field of gerontology and interned at Lincoln Lutheran in Racine.

"I love the program and the career field," she said.

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Center.



Deborah Ambrose was named Human Services Student of the Month for October. Pictured are, left to right: Deb Reinemann, Gateway Technical College lead instructor for Human Services; Grace Kragness, Gateway Technical College dean of business information technology and service and dean of campus affairs for the Elkhorn Campus; Deborah Ambrose; and Human Services instructor Dennis Markus, who nominated Ambrose for the award.

College, unions settle three-year contracts

The Gateway Technical College District Board of Trustees and its three unions ratified new three-year contracts last month.

Unions covered by this plan are the Gateway Educational Support Personnel (GESP), Gateway Technical Educational Association (GTEA), and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 2738. The three-year contracts call for salary raises ranging between 3.25 percent and 4 percent for each of the three years.

A major component of the contracts enacts changes to the medical plan in place for all Gateway employees. Changes resulted in a \$1.5 million savings to taxpayers while keeping in place many of the same medical benefits offered previously.

A second major component is the addition of a full-length summer term to the college academic year. This third term will give certain programs, based on need and volume, increased scheduling flexibility and increased slots to take core classes in the summer. It will give students in those programs greater opportunities to take the classes they need to graduate and move into the workplace more quickly.

"This new contract represents a shared leadership vision for our college and community," said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

GTEA President Pat Smoody added, "It was rewarding to work collaboratively with college administration to advance our mutual mission of providing excellent technical education to our students."

Gateway Technical College District Board President Ron Jandura agreed.

"This is an important statement about the leadership of our college," said Jandura. "We should all be proud of the effort to build a strong technical college through cooperation between administration and the unions. The contract is fair to its employees and innovative in the way Gateway will be able to provide services in the future."

The contract allows for three full 15-week terms – fall, spring and summer – rather than two 16-week semesters



and two six-week summer terms. Daily class times will be bumped up slightly to give students the same number of hours per term in the classroom. It will go into effect for the 2008-09 academic year.

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Health Care Employers Day successful

More than 270 job-seekers – many of them Gateway Technical College students – attended a health care provider job fair at the college.

A total of 32 health care industry employers and colleges from southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois set up booths at the fair, seeking recruits for their organization. Employers came from locations inside and outside of the Gateway Technical College District.

The event is designed to be used by Gateway students, graduates, high school students and the general public. It represents a way for those looking to land a job in the health care field to get fresh, solid leads and career guidance by talking directly to those who hire for their individual companies.

Employers sought applicants for positions including registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, line therapists, medical transcriptionists, and lab support employees. Representatives from five colleges also attended, looking for students who wanted to continue their education to a bachelor's degree.

Gateway counselor and event organizer Sheri Eisch said several of those attending filled out job applications and one person told her they landed a job interview after speaking with an employer there.

Most employers indicated they received one to five applications, while one said they received 16 to 20. Most exhibitors filling out evaluation sheets said they would return when Gateway plans to hold the annual event in 2008, on October 29.

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(left to right) Gateway Technical College students Caresa Leaque and Cynthia Vasey talk to Kindred Hospital recruiter Nancy Brounacker at the Healthcare Employers Job Fair Oct. 17 in the Madrigano Auditorium on the Kenosha Campus.

Shift on Racine Campus to help business, health students

Business programs on the Racine Campus will be strengthened through consolidation and remodeling work done to the Technical Building.

Business programs will be consolidated in one area on the Racine Campus, the first floor of the Technical Building. It will be called the Business Excellence Center. The remodeled space – formerly the site of the Racine Campus automotive technology program – will house the administrative assistant, accounting, office assistant, marketing, supervisory management, and business management programs.

The programs were formerly in different locations on that campus.

Grace Kragness, Gateway Technical College dean of business information technology and service and dean of campus affairs for the Elkhorn Campus, said she is excited about the opportunity for all the programs to be under the same roof.

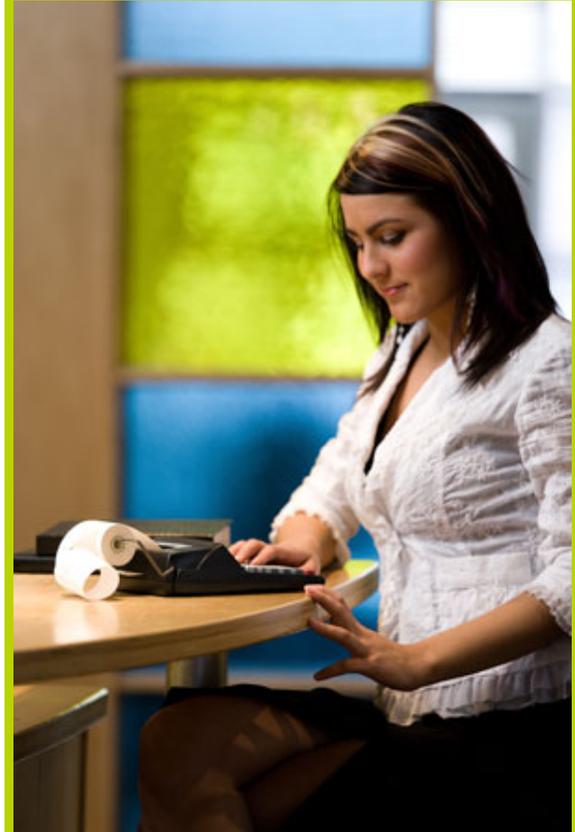
“This gives us a chance to pull all these programs together,” Kragness says. “It will allow for better integration of programs, as well as increased coordination between faculty members. Students will be able to work together on projects.”

Kragness says there was some cooperative work being done across the programs.

The added business space was made possible when the automotive tech program shifted from Racine to the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology in Kenosha, which officially opened its doors September 20.

Remodeling is scheduled to take place throughout spring and early summer 2008. The Business Excellence Center is set to open August 2008, in time for the fall semester.

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Foundation awards scholarships

A total of 60 scholarships were awarded to students November 1 at the Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc. 2007 Scholarship Awards event at the Madrigrano Auditorium on the Kenosha Campus.

Scholarships ranged from \$150 to \$1,000, and more than \$40,000 will be awarded in total scholarship amounts over the academic year.

"It's the generosity and support of our sponsors that makes this whole scholarship program possible," says Foundation Board Executive Secretary Ken Vetovec.

Vetovec said it's more than just the students who look forward to the scholarship ceremony – donors anticipate attending and personally meeting and presenting the scholarship to the recipient.

"We invite the sponsors to attend, meet the recipients, and award them the scholarship," says Vetovec. "Students are also presented with a congratulatory rose."

Family and friends of the recipients also attend the awards ceremony. About 100 attended the event.

"The scholarships are meaningful to the students in helping them to continue their educational pursuits," Vetovec says. "And from their personal thank-yous, you can tell that the funds are definitely appreciated."

Businesses or individuals interested in finding out more on how to sponsor a scholarship are encouraged to call Vetovec at (262) 564-2866 or send an e-mail to foundation@gtc.edu.

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Gateway Technical College accepting nominations for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award

Gateway Technical College is taking nominations for the 2008 Humanitarian Award which annually honors someone from the tri-county area who exemplifies the daily principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Nominees must be from Kenosha, Walworth, or Racine counties and have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to "improved lives and contributed to the



Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. Board Member Lois Morava awards Calvin Harris a scholarship at the Foundation's 2007 Scholarship Awards event at the Madrigrano Auditorium on the Kenosha Campus.



President Lyndon B. Johnson talking with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the Oval Office at the White House, Washington, D.C., 1963.

well-being of people." The award winner will be announced at the 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration January 21 at the Madrigano Auditorium of the Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Avenue.

There are two separate categories for nominees: students in grades six through 12, and adults.

Completed forms must be postmarked by December 7. The form can be found on Gateway's Web site at www.gtc.edu/mlk.

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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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"Johnson, Lyndon B.: meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr." Online Photograph. Encyclopædia Britannica Online. 6 Nov. 2007