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October 2007

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Looking over the Horizon ...

If it takes a village to raise a child, and a village to raise a student, then a good portion of that village came to celebrate the opening of the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology last month.

The makeup of the more than 300 who helped celebrate the opening of the Horizon Center on Sept. 20 illustrates the level of partnership and community connections Horizon has produced on many different levels. This partnership will ensure Horizon Center remains a world-class facility for years to come. Federal, state, industry, business, and local leaders cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Center, truly the future of what our community can achieve as we strive to educate a world-class workforce.

Partners on many levels helped take the Horizon Center from dream to reality as it became a project strongly supported not only by companies but also by individuals. The commitment made by organizations often came from the commitment made by individuals within its ranks. There are more than 125 partners in the project and the number grows every day. Our community sees the value in the facility and most importantly in the services provided to



Bryan Albrecht - President, Gateway
Technical College

Horizon students.

The Horizon Center is truly a model for the future. Students enrolled in the programs are issued a laptop computer by which all curriculum, team projects, and instructor interaction is managed. Many have called this the college's first paperless educational program. It defines the prekindergarten-through-college philosophy. Serving as a career center for Opt2explore, the Center is a hub for career services including industry seminars, online training, articulated secondary programming, and hands-on activities in all aspects of transportation.

The vision for the Center created more than a year ago can now be seen right in front of us. Our community has raised the bar of educational expectations and partnered with us to raise the Horizon Center, which will provide an environment to educate and train today's transportation workforce.

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Federal, state, local officials cut ribbon for Horizon Center

The Horizon Center for Transportation Technology has officially revved up and is beginning to take students on their journey through the high-tech center, fueled by more than 300 who attended the site's ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 20.

The modern, state-of-the-art transportation technology center will train auto technicians to compete locally and nationally in today's changing technological automobile service workplace. The Center will also offer Aeronautics-Pilot Training from its location adjacent to the Kenosha Municipal Airport.

Several state, federal, and business leaders spoke at the event, celebrating the opening of the center. They include: Emily Stover DeRocco, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training; Roberta Gassman, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; Nick Pinchuk, Snap-on Incorporated's president and chief operating officer; Jack Michaels, Snap-on Incorporated's chairman and chief executive officer; and Ray Pedersen, executive director of The Foundation of Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers.

The Horizon Center for Transportation Technology, 4940-88th Avenue, Kenosha, will become a training hub for



Federal, state, local and college officials cut the ribbon for the Sept. 20 opening of the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology. The modern center will train auto technicians and offer aeronautics-pilot training. Pictured are, left to right: Tony Torcaso, Gateway Technical College automotive student; Ray Pedersen, Executive Director of the Foundation of the Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers; Nick Pinchuk, Snap-on Incorporated President and Chief Operating Officer; Jack Michaels, Snap-on Incorporated Chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Roberta Gassman, Secretary, Wisconsin Workforce Development; Emily Stover DeRocco, U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training; Roger Zacharias, Gateway Technical

the transportation industry in the Midwest, helping to deliver highly proficient and much-needed technicians to area employers. The Center will train students to seek employment locally and nationally in a field short of qualified employees.

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DOL grant continues providing dividends to instructors

The Department of Labor-Employment & Training Administration awarded Gateway Technical College a \$900,000 grant in October 2004. Three years later, it has surpassed all expectations.

The grant pays for the "Upgrading the Nation's Automotive Program," aimed at increasing the number of NATEF/ASE-certified automotive instructors and certified automotive training programs throughout the country.

According to a July 30 report – submitted two-and-a-half years into the grant – issued by Gateway Technical College to the U.S. Department of Labor:

- 2,330 instructors have been trained through the Web site. The goal was 500 over two years – and 877 were already trained in the first year ending December 2005 and 1,740 at the end of two years, according to an evaluation by an independent third party.
- 8,840 training modules have been completed by instructors as of June 30.
- All 50 states are represented by those who have participated in training.
- The portion of the Web site designed to assist automotive training programs to achieve certification was introduced within the first year.

The grant became one of the catalysts for the creation of the Horizon Center.

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College Board Vice Chairman; Dennis Sherwood, Gateway Technical College Dean of Campus Affairs and Transportation Division; Robert Braun, automotive instructor; Bonnie Ricchio, Vice President of Gateway Technical College Foundation; David Fountain, Kenosha Unified School Board President; James Zylstra, Vice President of Finance for the Wisconsin Technical College System.



For more information
about the program visit:
Upgrade2Cert.org

Modern flight simulator takes flight, helps students soar

A newly-installed flight training device will help Gateway Technical College students to take flight with their studies.

A new \$232,000 state-of-the-art Frasca TruFlite flight training device was recently installed at the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology, a unit that will give pilots in training a true simulation of flight before they step into a plane.

The unit trains students in the latest in avionics, including digital flight instrumentation, 180-degree visuals, and scenario-based training to prompt students to take their plane from and to actual airports.

The device provides instructors with many ways to teach students how to properly pilot a plane. Instructors can stop the student in the middle of a simulated flight to give instruction, ask them to practice a maneuver and then play the maneuver back once it's completed with additional guidance.

The trainer allows students to practice many of the maneuvers before they ever enter a plane – which is more efficient and less costly to the students. Rental for single-engine planes can cost \$210 an hour, twin-engine up to \$343 an hour, while the flight training devices cost \$50 per hour.

"The students will understand it the first time, second time at the most, under this training," says Mike Bogdan, Gateway assistant chief flight instructor. "Before, all the training took place in the airplane and it took considerably longer."

"The trainer gives the student a much truer sense of the airplane. It replicates both the single and multiengine aircraft."

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The new Frasca Tru-flight flight training device recently installed at the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology will give pilots in training a true simulation of flight before they step into a plane.

Gateway continues to get greener

Cool technology and advanced training is featured at the Horizon Center, but it is home to something much more basic, too: The Green Wall.

The Green Wall celebrates Gateway's commitment to preserving our environment, which includes environmental awareness, conservation, cleaning materials, and air quality.

A touch screen on a wall of the Center's lobby leads visitors through Gateway's efforts to reduce the negative impact on the environment. Some of those ways include energy conservation and the materials and equipment used in the Center. The Siemens unit shows carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and lighting levels throughout the building.

Gateway Technical College overall is implementing initiatives to decrease negative environmental impacts, including:

- using guidelines provided by three initiatives when purchasing electronic equipment -- Energy Star, Green Electronics Council, and Climate Saves Computer Initiative.
- working with Focus on Energy to complete a districtwide evaluation of energy use and develop and implement an energy conservation plan.
- using cleaning and paper products provided by many that reduce the negative impact on the environment. Gateway is purchasing more of these products and instituting new processes that reduce pollution.

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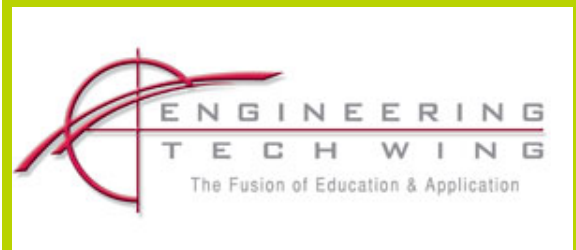
Students leading the way with engineering tech program

Local high schools students interested in becoming engineers are leading the way – right to a Gateway Technical College education.

Students at several area high schools continue to join Project Lead the Way, a national curriculum program promoting pre-engineering courses for middle and high school students. The goal is to help form partnerships between public schools, colleges, and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologies graduating from our educational system.



The Green Wall celebrates Gateway's commitment to preserving our environment, which includes environmental awareness, conservation, cleaning materials, and air quality. Visitors can use the touch screen to see the carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and lighting levels throughout the building.



Visit the Engineering Tech Wing:
<http://www.gtc.edu/engtech>

Through the program, students work with math and science principles to understand how it applies to engineering and other courses.

Gateway Technical College has partnered with several local high schools including those in Kenosha Unified School District, Racine Unified School District, School District of Delevan-Darien, and Lake Geneva Area Schools to help raise the awareness of the engineering along with increasing math and science test scores.

Pat Hoppe, Gateway Engineering Technology division chairman, says school officials are seeing a tremendous influx of students looking to take the classes. Hoppe adds that students drawn to the courses are those serious about exploring the engineering field or looking for a challenge in their courses.

"It is drawing the middle and upper-tier students because of the academic challenges of these courses," he said. "And it is paying off – the students entering our program from this program are at an exceptional level. They are well-prepared."

Hoppe says the rigor and depth of the high school courses are strong enough that Gateway transfers them directly into the college's three engineering technology programs; Civil Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

He says high school students benefit taking the courses in two ways.

"They are able to come out of high school knowing which profession they want to study, rather than spending a year and perhaps switching majors and such," Hoppe says.

"Also, since we give credit for the classes, if they do decide to enter engineering they can be earning their high school diploma and be earning credits for their associate degree at the same time. They save time and money on tuition."

Hoppe estimated 200 to 300 students from each district are taking the classes.

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For more information, contact your local school district or pltw.org.

National floral expert shows students, public how to properly arrange

Cory Lonsert's seminar at Gateway Technical College last month was flowery -- and pragmatic at the same time.

Lonsert, a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers, gave his high-energy seminar of exciting and creative floral designs to students and members of the local community. His focus was on event and party floral design.

Lonsert worked on the arrangements during the event and gave the audience specific examples of floral design to take home or to their business, and spurred several new ideas of their own.

Jane Edwards, floral design instructor and AIFD designer, says she believes students and the audience benefited by being taught several new design techniques and were able to use the newest floral products available on the market today.

"They really had the opportunity to hear and learn from somebody who's exciting, has great knowledge and techniques," Edwards says. "He's a live wire, he's very energetic. He reinforces what is taught in the classroom but also taught some new techniques, too. His work is international in scope."

The Gateway student chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers, the only such chapter in the state today, sponsored the event.

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Human Services student wins monthly honor

Jana Breckenridge was honored with the first Human Services Student of the Month award this academic school year, receiving the award for September.

Breckenridge, of Racine, was honored for her academic success. However, Deb Reinemann, lead instructor of the Human Services program, said Breckenridge was honored also on the basis of her social strengths.

"She is a role model for other students," Reinemann says. "Her enthusiasm is contagious. Everybody likes her. She has a heavy workload inside and outside of school, gets wonderful grades, and stands out from other students



For more information about Gateway's two horticulture programs, visit:
<http://www.gtc.edu/horticulture>



Jana Breckenridge was recently honored with the first Human Services Student of the Month Award this academic school year, receiving the award for September. Pictured

because of her positive demeanor."

"People in her classes respect her, they really like her, and she helps other people, as well."

Breckenridge says she was surprised and happy by the award.

"Out of so many students that could be chosen, I was picked," Breckenridge says. "I was out of school for 16 years and came back to school this year, and now I'm picked for this. This is great. Since I have returned to school, I strive to get straight As."

There will be eight Human Services students of the month this academic year, four each semester. Breckenridge receives a \$100 award.

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Nursing grad wins Froedtert excellence award

A Gateway Technical College graduate was recently recognized for excellence in the field of nursing.

Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital honored Sally Jansen, a 2002 Gateway Nursing program graduate, with a 2007 Professional Nursing Clinical Excellence Award. The Nursing Excellence Awards are peer nominated and recognize staff who consistently exhibit excellence in the clinical setting at Froedtert.

Jansen, who has worked in the hospital's neurosurgery unit since starting her career there in 2002, said she was surprised and happy by the award because it is peer-nominated and it was for actions she does within her everyday work.

"I was excited. For your peers to look up to you, for people to see the work you have done, this is wonderful," Jansen said. "I was just doing what I do, and to get the award for that was great."

Some of the work projects Jansen has undertaken include changing policies within the hospital, working for the hospital to get a Magnet status – the gold standard for nursing – and striving for excellence in care.

Jansen, 41, who lives in Waukesha, says her Gateway instructors first helped plant the seed for some of the actions honored by Froedtert.

are, from left to right, Zina Haywood, Gateway Executive Vice President/Provost Academic and Campus Affairs, Jana Breckenridge and Deb Reinemann, lead instructor of the Human Services program.



Gateway Technical College Nursing program graduate Sally Jansen was recently honored for her work as a nurse with Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital's 2007 Nursing Excellence Award. Jansen, who works in the hospital's neurology department, is pictured second from the left at Miller Park, where she and her fellow nurses were honored on the field. Jansen now lives in Waukesha. Also pictured with Jansen are, left to right, Andrew Kontowicz, Jennifer Blissitt, and Brenda Baranowski.

"A lot of this I got from my Gateway instructors," Jansen says. "They said to push yourself forward and that you are never too old to learn anything."

After graduating from Gateway in 2002, Jansen has gone on to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing science through the University of Phoenix's online program. She is pursuing her master's degree in nursing education from the same institution.

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College alumni start group

After being talked about for some time, Gateway Technical College's Alumni Association became a reality last month and had a strong showing of alumni for its inaugural event.

Nearly 60 alumni attended the Alumni Association's kick-off event held at the Madrigano Auditorium at Gateway Technical College's Kenosha Campus. Many old connections were made among attending alumni excited about this new connection to Gateway.

Organizers say the group will help alumni connect in a social setting as well as offering them the opportunity to undertake a number of projects that will help current students or the college itself. Among other benefits, members will have an online newsletter, will be notified of ongoing Gateway events, sponsor alumni-only events, and have travel opportunities for members in the future. They will also have the chance to serve as mentors for current students.

The direction the group takes will be determined by a board elected from its membership. The association is currently run by an ad-hoc committee of alumni and Gateway staff.

Association membership fees are:

- Graduate membership – alumni who have graduated from Gateway Technical College, \$250 lifetime or \$25 annually
- Collegiate membership – for anyone who has taken a Gateway Technical College class, \$200 lifetime membership or \$20 annually
- Any graduate signing up before Dec. 31 – lifetime membership of \$200 or \$20 annually

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For more information: <http://www.gtc.edu/alumni>

Gateway, United Way partner for computers

Gateway Technical College has donated five computers to the United Way of Kenosha County.

Katherine Marks, United Way of Kenosha County chief professional officer, said the computers will be used at the office during the group's campaign time, which typically runs from August through December.

Marks said her organization has been looking to buy new desktop computers for the office to replace some outdated models. The Gateway computers are newer and should help during the campaign effort, Marks said.

"It's a great savings for us," she said. "It gives us the ability to have more updated computers for the volunteers. The ones we have are 10 to 15 years old."

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht is the president of the United Way of Kenosha County Board of Directors.

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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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Gateway Technical College donated five computers to the United Way of Kenosha County. Pictured are, left to right, Stephanie Sklba, Gateway Technical College Vice President for Government and Community Relations; Katherine Marks, United Way of Kenosha County chief professional officer; and Jeff Robshaw, Gateway Vice President of Learning Innovation/CIO.