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Gateway a leader in workforce preparation

Gateway Technical College has become a leader in workforce preparation. Students, industry, and the community benefit from connections made with schools, industry, and staff to train and produce a skilled workforce.

And it's not something that you have to look hard to find. Those connections begin here and travel to other parts of the nation – and beyond.

Housed within the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology is a national Snap-on Certification training center, where we are training students in become certified in Snap-on automotive diagnostics tools. The first five noninstructional staff in the nation just passed one of the certification exams as a result of that partnership between Gateway and Snap-on.

Another center showing workforce preparation is the new Haas CNC lab on the Racine Campus. The lab, which opened in December, will give Gateway students the opportunity to train on the latest and most up-to-date CNC machines in the world. The lab was forged in an agreement between Gateway and Haas.



Bryan Albrecht
President, Gateway Technical College

The training leadership doesn't end at our national borders. When one of our instructors, Jim Buck, isn't at Gateway, he's training students elsewhere – half a world away. In November, IBM flew Buck to Johannesburg, South Africa, for two weeks to conduct System i RPG training. Students were from Johannesburg, Capetown, as well as the country of Botswana. They included professional programmers focused on learning the new programming techniques.

Those international horizons are shared with students, too. Four Interior Design students will benefit from their trip in January to Germany as part of our foreign exchange program with Kaufmännische Schulen (K-S Hanau). They will be able to parlay the real-world experiences they gained there in their careers.

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Interior Design students broaden horizons with trip to Germany

Four Gateway Technical College Interior Design students learned more about the global market, international interior design trends, and how these have a direct impact on their future careers.

The students traveled to Hanau, Germany, as part of a foreign exchange program Gateway has set up with Kaufmännische Schulen (K-S Hanau). While students were there, they got a close-up view of a worldwide furniture market and worked with their German classmates on a consumer furniture survey that has real-world applications.

The survey will be general in nature, focusing on consumer buying habits and how trends influence their buying habits in home furnishings and design.

Students traveled to Germany mid-January until the first week of February. Students from K-S Hanau most recently visited Gateway in October and November.

The Gateway students had a two-day stopover at the IMM Cologne international furnishing show in Cologne, Germany. The 2008 fair featured more than 1,300 exhibitors from 60 countries.

From Cologne, students traveled to Hanau to attend classes and work with their exchange program students. The Gateway group stayed with host families for the remainder of the trip.



Gateway Technical College Executive Vice President/Provost Zina Haywood holds up the tie she cut off Gateway President Bryan Albrecht during a live Internet videoconferencing event at the Center for Bioscience & Information Technology. The event featured Gateway Interior Design students videoconferencing with their family and college staff members in Kenosha. Haywood took part in the German event called Weiberfastnacht, where women cut off men's ties in exchange for a kiss. College staff members in Germany also showed off their cut ties, too.

The next Gateway group to travel to the German school is comprised of accounting students.

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Humanitarians honored at annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration

Six area residents were honored as the 2008 Humanitarians at Gateway Technical College's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 21.

Four adults and two teens were honored at the 14th annual event for exemplifying the daily principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To qualify for the honor, recipients needed to be residents of Kenosha, Racine, or Walworth counties. Other criteria included demonstrating commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights and social justice – and how this extraordinary commitment has improved lives and contributed to the well-being of people.

The 2008 adult recipients are:

- Janet Days, Racine. A nominator calls Janet one of his heroes and says while on the school board, she asked the tough questions, made the tough decisions but made sure that every decision was forged with an equal opportunity for all.
- Mother Louise Hunter, Racine. Mother Louise's nominator says her life's work has been devoted to being a support system for those who are hungry, homeless, and needy.
- Maria Morales, Racine. Her nominator says Maria understands "that our problems are international and so must be the solutions – always based on the recognition that for our society to progress, our laws must uphold the inherent dignity of every human being."
- Warrington Richardson, Racine. Richardson's nominator says he's "one of the most helpful and respected individuals



Interior Design students pose during a videoconference. They were in Germany at the time.



Janet Days



Mother Louise Hunter



Maria Morales



Warrington Richardson



Allena Berry



Kaitie Gromacki

among his peers that I have met in my 33 years with Racine Unified Schools.”

The teen recipients are:

- Allena Berry, Racine. Berry, a senior at Washington Park High School, has used her leadership skills to reach out to others and start up a mentoring program for incoming freshmen high-schoolers.
- Kaitie Gromacki, Kenosha. Gromacki, a senior at Tremper High School, began working to help others 13 years ago at the Shalom Center when she was 6. She worked with her mother at the Interfaith Network Nightly Shelter program at the center at 14 and now works with the Kenosha Literacy Council.

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King keynotes King celebration

Vivian King was the keynote speaker at the Celebration January 21.

Vivian King is the director of public affairs for Roundy’s Supermarkets Inc., a Milwaukee-based supermarket chain which operates 153 retail grocery stores including several in Southeastern Wisconsin. She related her experience with racism while attending the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1985, but said it didn’t deter her from focusing on the important steps of graduating from college and doing her job as a journalist.

King spent more than 10 years at NBC affiliate WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee, where she was hired as an education reporter and later co-anchored the station’s mid-day newscasts “Live at 11” and “Live at 11:30.” She also contributed to the station’s morning show, “Live at Daybreak,” and helped launch WTMJ’s first weekend morning show, “Live at Daybreak-Weekend Edition.”

This year’s celebration theme was “Take a Position, Move Mountains,” drawing upon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s call for Americans to take the position that is “neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right.”

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Vivian King speaks during Gateway Technical College’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration January 21.

Welding boot camp held, high-schoolers attend

Gateway has begun its third welding boot camp with a little twist from the others – it got just a bit younger.

This boot camp will include two high school students in line to graduate from their high school but looking for the opportunity to gain the technical skills needed to launch a career in welding. The remaining eight students are from the Racine County Workforce Development Center and the Kenosha County Job Service.

The students can take two paths upon graduation from the boot camp: They can seek a welding job or enroll in Gateway and continue their studies in the welding technical diploma program. If they return to Gateway, they will have earned 10 credits toward that diploma.

The boot camp is being held in response to the need for welders, expressed by local manufacturers. Officials say there are too few skilled welders, and the boot camp will provide strong enough skills to address that need -- or provide the fundamentals for these students to continue toward the welding technical diploma. In addition, local employers say other workplace skills taught in the boot camp are needed in a quality and skilled workforce.

The program is made possible from a state of Wisconsin grant, which pays for the students' registration fees, materials, and books.

In addition to high school students, a different aspect of this boot camp is the time it will be held – four hours Monday through Friday afternoons for 16 weeks, as compared to four-hour days over fewer weeks. Upon successful completion, students will also have the opportunity to take a Manufacturing Skills Standards Council safety exam assessment.

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Gateway will hold another welding bootcamp.

Lunch and learn seminars held in Walworth County

Gateway and the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA) have begun to offer a series of free seminars for the business professional, providing useful information on a wide variety of business topics.

Gateway's Workforce and Economic Development Division and WCEDA will offer the brown bag-style seminars 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. one Thursday a month through June at the Elkhorn Campus, Room 112.

Organizers are looking forward to supporting Walworth County businesses in their effort to improve processes, learn new techniques, and better understand business trends.

The seminar schedule is as follows:

- February 21: Inventory Management. This seminar offers a brief session on inventory management for companies looking to reduce their inventory and use it more effectively. Presented by Rosemary Van Treeck.
- March 13: Lean Principles. The seminar will offer an overview of Lean Principles and how a business can benefit from using it in the workplace. Presented by Rick Lofy.
- April 17: Legal Issues for Supervisors/Managers. The seminar presents an overview of legal issues affecting all employers. Presented by Larry Wilkins.
- May 22: Surveys. This seminar offers an overview of customer satisfaction surveys. Presented by Therese Fellner.
- June 12. Charting in Excel. The session will offer an overview of how to make charts in Excel to graphically represent that information for reports and presentations. Presented by Kim Sanderson.

For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Rosemary Van Treeck at (262) 564-2236 or vantreeckr@gtc.edu.

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Workshops on e-business offers integration between communications and business

Gateway will begin to offer e-development workshops to help programmers and other IT professionals gain a broader understanding of new technologies and how to apply them to their career.

The new series of workshops will focus on e-business application development, or the integration of communications technologies with business processes and management practices. Participants may choose from a variety of workshops designed to cover the basics of e-business applications including databases, Java programming and Web programming, using HTML/XHTML.

Five workshops will be held.

- February 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Introduction to Programming. This course provides beginning programmers with a thorough knowledge of structured program logic. Fee: \$65. No prerequisite. Course 152-428-3ida.
- February 19, February 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. RDBMS Concepts and SQL: This course starts by introducing fundamental database concepts to develop knowledge of database management concepts. From there, several other topics including database design, data integrity and SQL will be covered. Fee: \$130. No prerequisite. Course 152-429-3ida.
- March 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Introduction to Object Oriented Programming. This introductory course takes a language-dependent, object-oriented approach to programming logic. The course introduces concepts such as Object Oriented Programming. Fee: \$40. Prerequisite: Intro to Programming. Course 152-430-3ida.
- March 25 and April 1, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Introduction to Java Programming. This course focuses on developing applications in Java using object oriented programming concepts. \$130. Prerequisite: Introduction to Object Oriented Programming. Course 152-431-3ida.
- April 15 and April 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Web Programming I Using HTML/XHTML. This course provides an extensive look at HTML. Fee: \$130. No prerequisite. Course 152-432-3ida.

All the workshops will be held at Gateway's Center for Bioscience & Information Technology, Room 125, 3520-30th Avenue, Kenosha.



Costs include materials and a box lunch from Café 91.1, except for the four-hour workshop. Registration can be done in person, online at www.gtc.edu, or by calling (262) 741-8518.

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Cohen keynotes WinterGreen conference; scholarships awarded to students

Award-winning and nationally known author, designer, and lecturer Stephanie Cohen headed up Gateway's effort to bring a little bit of green into the cold, wet winter.

Cohen was the keynote speaker at the 16th Annual WinterGreen conference held January 25 at the Madrigano Auditorium on Gateway's Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Avenue.

A total of 17 Horticulture students were awarded scholarships totaling \$16,000 during the event. Proceeds from the annual WinterGreen conference are used to help fund scholarships, among other efforts.

Cohen, well-known for her horticultural experience and energy – as well as being the “vertically challenged gardener” – delivered two speeches at the conference and signed some of her books.

Several Wisconsin gardening and landscape professionals also delivered seminars at the conference, including Ed Lyon, the executive director of the Rotary Gardens in Janesville, who spoke on “Dwarf in Size, Not Stature: Dwarf Conifers.”

The conference was set up to appeal to folks with a wide variety of horticulture experience, from the professional landscaper to the weekend gardener. It was a well-attended event. Proceeds from the annual seminar fund Horticulture student scholarships and student professional organization activities.

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Stephanie Cohen, award-winning and nationally known author, designer, and lecturer, signs one of her books during Gateway's WinterGreen conference. Cohen was the keynote speaker at the event.

Healthy opening in Spring 2008

The Spring semester had a health opening in January with some increases in programs as well as new facilities for students to learn in.

- The Racine Campus health lab opened for the Spring semester. The lab cost about \$399,000. You are invited to attend an Open House at the facility from 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. February 21st.
- There are 250 full-time equivalent students (FTEs) in Gateway's Health Division this semester. An FTE is generated by each 30 credits taken by students that year.
- The Automotive Technology program, based out of the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology, saw a 19 percent increase this semester.
- Student numbers continue to climb in Gateway's Criminal Justice associate degree program. Student total headcount numbers – full-time as well as part-time – have increased from 469 in Fall 2006 to 521 Fall 2007 and from 589 in Spring 2007 to 655 in Spring 2008.
- Total headcount numbers for the Civil Engineering/Architecture Survey program have climbed, too, from 17 in Spring 2007 to 21 in Spring 2008.

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College Sunday meets goals

More than 80 people benefited from the College Goal Sunday event held at Gateway on February 10.

A total of 54 people attended the event at the Racine Campus and 30 at the Kenosha Campus. College Goal Sunday is a national, one-day event that provides free information and assistance to families who are filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the federally required form for students seeking financial aid.

Volunteers helped applicants complete 20 financial aid applications at the Racine Campus and 15 financial aid applications at the Kenosha Campus.

A total of 20 locations throughout Wisconsin hosted the statewide event, including the two from Gateway. This was the third year of the event on the Racine Campus and the first at the Kenosha Campus.

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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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