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## **Economic concerns, business and individuals are Gateway's bottom line**

As we move into this part of the semester, when the engine of learning is at full steam, it's time to reflect on our bottom line here at Gateway.

Our bottom line is shared by business and students. We are here to train students to be productive members of the workforce.

A highly trained workforce helps everyone's bottom line. The most recent graduate follow-up report shows 91 percent of Gateway graduates are employed within six months of graduation and nearly 67 percent in their field of training. Business owners benefit from the high quality of training received and the ability of Gateway graduates to hit the ground running once hired.

That link with business doesn't end with the traditional associate and technical diploma degree programs. Gateway offers training tailored to specific company needs through the Workforce and Economic Development Division.

The bottom line? Gateway is there for the economic bottom line of individuals and companies.

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## **Obama campaign trail visit includes Gateway**

No matter the outcome of the presidential election, Gateway can write in its own history books that it will have been a part of it.

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama visited Feb. 13 during his campaign swing through Southeastern Wisconsin the week prior to the state's primary election. Obama visited Gateway's Racine Campus following a town hall meeting at nearby Memorial Hall.

Obama used the campus buildings – specifically the CNC lab, Health Careers Lab, Gourmet Room and the learning resource center – mainly for filming purposes. The event was staged and closed to the public, although Obama did stop to shake hands and chat briefly with students and well-wishers who had gathered in the commons area.

Those filmed were from Obama's campaign and not Gateway students. No sections of the campus were closed



**Bryan Albrecht**  
President, Gateway Technical College



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama shoots some footage at the Racine Campus learning resource center during a campaign swing through Southeastern Wisconsin the week prior to the state's primary election. Obama visited Gateway's Racine Campus following a town hall meeting at nearby Memorial Hall.

nor were any classes canceled for the event. Obama's campaign had asked to use the facilities for the filming.

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## Gateway opens first-ever police academy

Gateway Technical College on February 18 opened its first-ever police academy, a 13-week, 520-hour session. Two academies per year are planned.

This is the college's first academy and it will be led by criminal justice instructor and academy director Joe Whiten. He said a need exists for a police academy in the Gateway Technical College District now – illustrated by the number of law enforcement agencies within the district sending their recruits to technical college academies elsewhere.

Certified law enforcement officers from the Gateway Technical College District will serve as instructors for the academy. While the academy must conform to state standards, students benefit by receiving instruction from those officers who can tailor some of the training for the needs of law enforcement agencies within the district. The academy will save taxpayer dollars by cutting out travel expenses to local agencies which must otherwise pay for students to attend an academy in another district.

The academy will be held in the Technical Building on the Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Avenue.

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## Gassman donates \$25,000 to auto tech, part of \$100,000 total in donations

Through the office of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman, Gateway Technical College was presented with a \$25,000 Grow Wisconsin grant. Added to the \$25,000 will be \$25,000 contributions each from Snap-on Incorporated, Kenosha County, and Gateway.

The state grant will help train instructors, as well as students and automotive technicians already in the field, to become certified automotive diagnostic technicians. Gassman said in a prepared release that the as many as 100 new students will now receive training to become



Gateway Technical College opened its first-ever police academy, which will benefit students, local employers, and taxpayers within the college district.



Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht, Gateway student Jason Scuffham, Gateway student Kurt Finley, Gateway automotive instructor Bill Fell and Snap-on Industrial district sales manager Marty Henning are pictured by a ceremonial check

certified diagnostic automotive technicians.

"This is good news for the Kenosha area and the state, and it is another example of what we are doing to ensure a first-rate workforce," she said.

Gassman was unable to attend the February 18 event at the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology event because of Wisconsin's wintry conditions and treacherous roads.

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht said he is proud of the partnerships forged and the opportunities this presents.

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## Gateway announces new diesel program

Gateway Technical College will offer students yet another opportunity to receive hands-on training in a field short of qualified workers in a new addition to a facility that has already garnered national attention.

Gateway officials announced the creation of an advanced technical certificate in diesel technology at a Feb. 18 event at the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology.

The expansion of the program means a 20,000-square-foot addition to the north side of the Horizon Center, which will enhance Gateway graduates' career opportunities.

The expanded space will follow in the footsteps of the state-of-the-art automotive center opened in September and serve as a model in diesel technology training.

"Gateway is proud to offer the nation's first automotive diagnostics certification program with Snap-on and now we will be able to add diesel certification to our toolbox of programs," said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

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at the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology. The check represents \$100,000 in contributions to the college to help train instructors, as well as students and automotive technicians already in the field to become certified automotive diagnostic technicians.



Gateway officials announced the creation of an advanced technical certificate in diesel technology, offering students another opportunity to receive hands-on training in a field short of qualified workers.



## Open house held for new, realistic health lab

A new Health Careers Lab was opened on Gateway's Racine Campus, providing hands-on training in a facility as near to an actual work environment as possible.

The new 13,000-square-foot facility, which takes up the fourth floor of the Technical Building on the Racine Campus, 1001 S. Main Street, will simulate a clinic as well as offer labs for hands-on training in several health career programs.

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht said at the open house that the completion and opening of the lab shouldn't be considered the end, but a beginning to the hands-on training now available to students there.

"This will help provide the career skills so they are even more successful once they leave this center," said Albrecht.

Instructors say students have already told them they believe the new lab provides them with a more clinical environment, more opportunities to learn, and a smoother transition from the college to an actual clinic.

Several one-room labs within the overall Health Careers Lab allow students to hone their skills, including labs for medical transcription, medical assistant, health unit coordinator, health information technology, and certified nursing assistant.

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## Lawmakers offer Gateway comments at legislative breakfast

Area lawmakers attended a legislative breakfast hosted by Gateway Technical College in late February, talking about many topics including the college's role to train workers and remaining flexible in the way it offers that training.

Several lawmakers or their representatives attended the event held the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology, including: Rep. John Steinbrink (D-Pleasant Prairie), Sen. Bob Wirth (D-Pleasant Prairie), Rep. Robin Vos (R-Racine), Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine), Sen. John Lehman (D-Racine), Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-Genoa City), Rep. Jim Krueser (D-Kenosha), along with representatives for Democratic Senator Russ Feingold and Republican Congressman Paul Ryan. Several Gateway staff



Gateway student Yvette Huizar demonstrates a blood testing procedure that can be taught at the college's new Health Careers Lab on the Racine Campus. Huizar demonstrated the procedure during an open house at the facility.



Area lawmakers attended a legislative breakfast hosted by Gateway Technical College in late February, talking about many topics including the college's role to train workers and remaining flexible in the way it offers that training. Legislators pictured, from

members also attended.

Lawmakers talked on a number of issues, including Gateway's ability to remain flexible and the need for that to train workers in today's business world.

"Gateway has been able to think outside the box and give our students some educational options," said Kerkman. "I appreciate your willingness to adapt, partner with others, and change quickly."

"Gateway has bent over backwards to do what it can to bring in new technologies to the area," said Lehman.

"I applaud Gateway's ability to work with companies of all sizes to train workers, making them competitive in the global marketplace," said Kreuser.

Steinbrink said he took a tour of the Horizon Center at an event earlier in the month where money was donated to the automotive technology program as well as a new diesel technology program was announced. He called those career fields "the jobs of the future."

"Without those technicians, our nation would be crippled because we depend on the trucking industry," said Steinbrink.

Others said they believed Gateway and other technical colleges were a good investment for students as well as the state.

"The flexibility that technical colleges have to offer is amazing," said Mason. "I think that people don't realize that technical colleges are the biggest graduate system in the state, and that technical colleges are the biggest economic engines in the state. Technical colleges transform lives."

Finally, several said they have heard from their constituents about their Gateway experience.

"The thing I like to hear most is when people tell me Gateway got me started, I am here because of Gateway Technical College," said Lehman. "There are so many people that you have touched. I think that you are on a mission that continues to be positive in the communities you serve."

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left, are: Rep. John Steinbrink (D-Pleasant Prairie), Sen. Bob Wirth (D-Pleasant Prairie), Rep. Robin Vos (R-Racine), Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine), Sen. John Lehman (D-Racine), Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-Genoa City), Rep. Jim Krueser (D-Kenosha).

## On-Demand Accounting program to begin soon

Advancements in technology have raised the bar in terms of our service expectations – from 24-hour customer service to online shopping. Gateway Technical College is meeting students' expectations as it introduces its first On-Demand program: Accounting.

On-Demand Accounting is offered online and defies the traditional semester calendar. Once a student registers for each online course, he or she can begin within the week and has up to 15 weeks to finish the course. If they finish early, they can start the next course right away.

On-Demand accounting allows students to balance current employment, family obligations and school in a way that works for them. Students are more in charge of their educational plan.

Gateway's accounting program has a strong reputation among employers, with the vast majority of graduates obtaining accounting related employment within six months of graduation. Students are prepared for an entry level job or promotion in an accounting firm, handling the books and taxes for a business of their own, or becoming much more of an asset in any office position within a company.

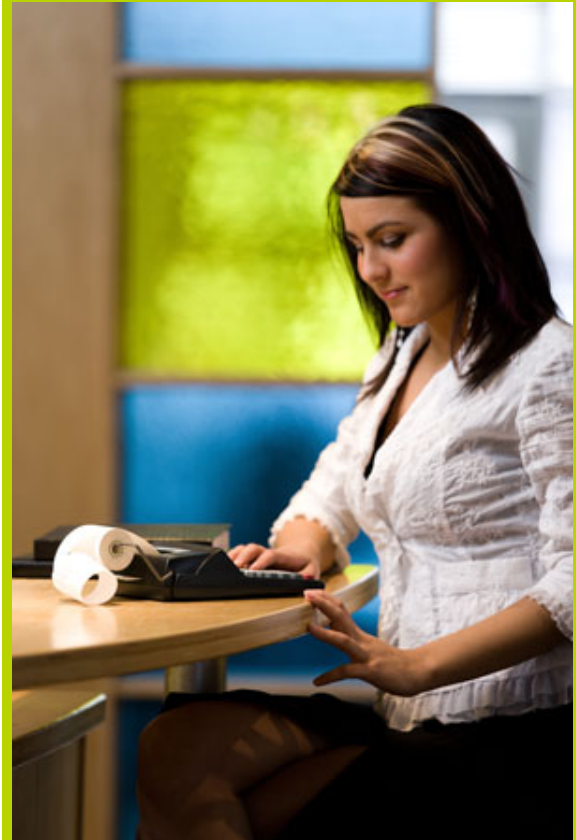
Those holding an array of duties in office management, stay-at-home moms, those in the military or commuters are excellent candidates for online/on-demand. The program will launch May 28.

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## Instructor, computer group president donates \$10,000 to Gateway foundation

Gateway instructor and Wisconsin Midrange Computer Professional Association president Jim Buck presented a \$10,000 scholarship check to the Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. at the February Gateway Board of Trustees meeting.

The \$10,000 will be dedicated to a Gateway student scholarship for students enrolled in the Programmer/Analyst Program. This curriculum prepares students to work on the IBM System i platform.



Gateway instructor and Wisconsin Midrange Computer Professional Association president Jim Buck presented a \$10,000 scholarship check to the Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. at the February Gateway Board of Trustees meeting.

<http://www.wmcpa.org/>

Buck, in his fourth year as president of the group, said the WMCPA has had a great relationship with Gateway and wanted to find a way to give back to the students.

"Gateway Technical College really does bring in trained graduates to work on the IBM System i platform," said Buck. "We felt donating the money would help students to get an education at Gateway."

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## **Racine Campus student named District Star Ambassador**

Deandra McWhorter, a radio broadcast/business management student, is the 2008 Gateway Technical College District Star Ambassador.

McWhorter was named the District Star Ambassador as well as the Racine Campus Star Ambassador at the February 25 awards ceremony. Bradley Shaw, a Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement student, was named the Kenosha Campus Star Ambassador while Susan Knudson, an administrative assistant/accounting student, was named the Elkhorn Campus Star Ambassador.

The three were selected as Star Ambassadors from nominees at each campus, based on their outstanding character, positive attitude, leadership, personal goals, communication skills, enthusiasm, and self-confidence.

The Star Ambassadors represent Gateway at various community and college events. They also become a resource for the college in the area of recruitment and retention of students. McWhorter, who represents the district, is scheduled to be a speaker at the Adult High School graduation ceremony this spring.

In addition to the experience they will gain and the honor of being named a Star Ambassador, each student also receives a \$250 scholarship.

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Susan Knudson, Deandra McWhorter and Bradley Shaw were named Gateway campus Star Ambassadors. McWhorter was also named the 2008 Gateway Technical College District Star Ambassador in addition to Racine Campus Star Ambassador. Knudson was named the Elkhorn Campus Star Ambassador while Shaw was named the Kenosha Campus Star Ambassador.



## Gateway awards several Foundation grants

The Gateway Technical College Foundation awarded several inspiration grants recently.

Tina Cipriano and Sandy Weber were awarded two grants – one that will support sending Administrative/Office Assistant students to a convention, the other to offer a class called Command Spanish for Administrative Assistant students. Student Blake Baranowski and instructor Cheryl Ucakar received a grant for a personal computer repair clinic that supports student club members and faculty visiting the community centers to repair computers for the elderly. Mary Baldwin-Grimes received a grant for a video gaming day, which will help recruit high school students to Gateway.

Reggie Parks received a grant to enhance student online program counseling. Kathy Saunders received a grant to promote English language learning and citizenship for all English as a Second Language students. Kate Field was awarded a grant for a horticulture outreach to high school students.

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## Gateway to host quarterly Wisconsin Business Incubator meeting

Gateway Technical College will host the Wisconsin Business Incubator Association's quarterly meeting April 17 and April 18 at the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation.

The association is a group founded in 1988 in Wisconsin Rapids and has more than 60 members including more than 30 incubation facilities, making WBIA the fourth largest state incubation organization in the nation. Gateway is a member of the WBIA and houses the area's newest business incubator, Alliance Enterprises.

WBIA sponsors quarterly networking and training meetings around the state and has maintained representation on the National Business Incubator Association Board of Directors throughout most of that organization's history.

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## Interior design students take state awards

Three Gateway Technical College Interior Design students took home state honors at the Wisconsin Technical College System Interior Design Competition held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

The winners include:

- Laura Dipper: First place, Textiles Knowledge – First Year Students
- Patchouli Moniot: Second place, History of Furniture Knowledge – Second Year Students
- Sherri Hauner: History of Furniture Knowledge – First Year Students

A total of 11 Interior Design students participated in the event. Students competed in two areas:

- a test of historical furniture and textiles
- on-the-spot design scenario in one of three skill areas: Residential Design, Commercial Design or Kitchen Design.

Each participant was given a project scenario, along with finish samples, from which to choose. Students created a plan and presentation board within a three-hour time limit. Industry professionals then judged the design solutions.

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## Gateway students touch lives at community clinic

Several Gateway Technical College students touched the lives of Kenosha-area adults and children at a free community medical clinic.

Nursing students volunteered their time and skills to the Touched Twice clinic held March 1 at Reuther Central High School. The wellness clinic provides free dental and medical services, hair care, eye care, groceries, pastoral counseling, and spiritual care from various professionals in the community.

Gateway students helped in a number of ways, from gathering medical information to be passed along to a doctor at the clinic to conducting diabetes and high blood pressure screenings.

Many of those served may have no other means to receive this type of service outside of the clinic. Students also benefit by applying what they've learned in the classroom –



Three Gateway Technical College Interior Design students took home state honors at the Wisconsin Technical College System Interior Design Competition. Pictured are Patchouli Moniot, Sherri Hauner, and Laura Dipper.



Photo by Kevin Poirier, reprint courtesy of the Kenosha News.

Gateway Technical College nursing student Laura Kobayashi checks out Hermelinda Martinez's blood pressure during the Touched Twice free clinic.

and receive a boost of confidence that helps propel them through their courses.

"Students who have served in the clinic have told me over and over again that they got their first inkling of what it will feel like to be a nurse that day and make a difference in someone's life," said Gateway nursing instructor Doris Groom.

"I have seen dramatic changes in the students when they are able to give back to the community like this. Many students have a lot of stress in their lives – they are going to school, some are married, some are single parents. When they come to this event, they see the beauty of being a nurse. They are not just a student – they feel like they are a nurse."

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## Gateway forges agreement with Penn State

An articulation agreement signed with Penn State will help Gateway graduates to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree online.

The agreement between Gateway and the Pennsylvania College of Technology – an affiliate of Penn State – sets up a way for Gateway IT programmer analyst associate degree grads to complete a bachelor's degree in technology management.

The courses they would take would be entirely online. This would appeal to recent graduates as well as professionals in the field who wish to return and earn their bachelor's degree.

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You may email questions or comments about Community Connection to Jayne Herring at [herringj@gtc.edu](mailto:herringj@gtc.edu) or Lee Colony at [colonyl@gtc.edu](mailto:colonyl@gtc.edu)

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Contact **Jim Buck**  
ph: (262) 564-3158  
for more information.