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May 2009

Previous Issues:

- **Innovation at a national level**
- **Kansasville fire prop vent deck provides for hands-on training**
- **Gateway hosts robotics event for third year**
- **Ictec wins RAMAC award**
- **Mike Verneze honored with international award**
- **Gateway marketing, accounting and design students win awards**
- **Gateway hosts expanded community-wide Celebrate Earth Day event**
- **Gateway begins drilling work for geothermal energy unit**
- **New torque-wind program partners with Snap-on**
- **Industrial mechanical technician lab opens**
- **Law enforcement academy graduates 18**
- **More than 1,000 graduate with associate, technical diplomas**
- **International Festival in Burlington**
- **SumoBot robotics competition held at Gateway**
- **Fiber optics infrastructure to boost educational opportunities**

## Innovation at a national level

It's a wonderful time of year -- we're sharing the excitement of our recent graduates who are looking toward a better future, and we are equally motivated by the new opportunities that lay ahead for incoming students this summer and fall.

We are particularly excited by the introduction of innovative training programs in emerging industries. These programs demonstrate employment potential for our students and will benefit area employers who are looking to grow their business in new ways. A Gateway-trained employee will help them meet their business goals.

A few programs are already moving past the visioning stage to reality. This week we will hold an open house for our Industrial Mechanical Technician Lab on our Racine Campus. While the degree program is slated to begin in fall, a similar program, run according to our boot camp format is currently in progress.

The lab space is also slated to be used for a program associated with the wind power generation industry. We've partnered with Snap-on Incorporated to help create a national torque certification program designed to meet the need of the growing **global wind power industry**.

**Geothermal energy training** is another new Gateway initiative that began this spring. Initially, students are being trained to drill holes for installing a geexchange system – the only training of this type in the nation. (note: link to story below)

And it won't end there. We will continue incorporating innovative programs to our curriculum – some with national importance – to create opportunities that benefit our students, industry partners, and Gateway communities.

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



**Bryan Albrecht**  
President, Gateway Technical College

## Kansasville fire prop vent deck provides for hands-on training

Gateway Fire Science students now have the opportunity for hands-on training in roof ventilation during a fire. Work on two roof vent props – one each in at the Kansasville and Caledonia fire departments – was recently completed by Gateway staff with the help of several community partners.

The construction culminated seven months of preparation by Gateway and its partners who stepped forward to make the training structures possible. The Wisconsin Technical College System requires use of these structures as part of the certification training and testing process in roof ventilation procedures.

“ Each district seeking to perform this certification is required to have one of these roof vent props,” said John Dahms, instructor/coordinator of Gateway’s Fire Protection Technician program. “This is an important procedure for students to master.”

Partners in building the structures include Scherrer Construction Co. Inc., Wanasek Corporation, Kansasville Fire Department, Caledonia Fire Department, Reineman’s True Value Hardware, Clinton’s Home Building Center, and the Burlington High School Construction Career Academy.

(For more information on the careers offered by Gateway, [www.gtc.edu/careers](http://www.gtc.edu/careers))

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

## Gateway hosts robotics event for third year

Gateway hosted the Third Annual Wisconsin Technical College System robotics competition at the college's Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, an event pitting the autonomous robots of more than 100 students from nine Wisconsin Technical College System teams against each other.

Robots were given two attempts at completing the task and the winner was the team with the fastest time. A Gateway team took second in the timed task event, while a team from Northwest Technical College took first.

This is the third year Gateway has hosted the event. Teams competed were from: Gateway Technical College; Waukesha County Technical College; College; Northwest



Students and community partners help work on a roof vent prop training deck.

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Technical college students compete at a statewide robotics competition hosted at Gateway.

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Technical College; and Southwest Technical College.

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

## Ictec wins RAMAC award

Ictect, Inc., a business incubator tenant at Gateway's Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, was presented with the Apollo Award by the Racine County Workforce Development Board at the Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC) Annual Awards Dinner.

The Apollo Award recognizes the accomplishments of a business owner or entrepreneurial team who started a new and innovative business in Racine County.

Pradeep Jain, owner and president of ictect, Inc., introduced a new patent, product and concept related to intelligent content architectures, and received contracts from the US Air Force, Nelnet Peterson's, and the City University of New York within its first year. Ictect will license its intellectual property to the Air Force Department of Publishing Office for use in streamlining the branch's Web document publishing.

In a difficult economic situation, ictect has delivered cost savings in the order of 50 percent by turning "outsourced" processes into "in-sourced," and by empowering knowledge workers in customer organizations.

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

## Mike Vernezze honored with international award

Gateway Technical College marketing instructor Mike Vernezze was the recipient of DECA/Delta Epsilon Chi's 2009 Outstanding Service Award at the 48th Annual Delta Epsilon Chi International Career Development Conference held in Anaheim, Calif.

The award "recognizes marketing personnel who have made outstanding contributions to further the mission of DECA Inc. at the international level" according to DECA/Delta Epsilon Chi. Delta Epsilon Chi is the collegiate division of DECA, and serves its diverse international membership as a professional organization, providing leadership and career-oriented opportunities to develop and enhance tomorrow's leaders.

The logo for RAMAC features the word "RAMAC" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters "R", "A", and "C" are white, while the "M" is blue. The "A" has a yellow triangle above it, and the "M" has a yellow triangle above it.

For more information, [felnert@gtc.edu](mailto:felnert@gtc.edu)



Mike Vernezze

“When accepting the award, I thought of all the great students and fellow advisors that I have had the privilege to advise and serve with over the last 31 years and how all the time, work, and effort as an adviser has been a rewarding experience in my educational career,” said Vernezze.

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

## Gateway marketing, accounting and design students win awards

Gateway Technical College students Laura Funk and Keli Mielke took home first-place honors in the Advertising Campaign category at the 48th Annual Delta Epsilon Chi’s International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Funk (Pleasant Prairie) and Mielke (Kenosha) were joined by 12 other Gateway marketing, design and accounting students who took home honors at the event, competing against 1,300 two-year and four-year college and university students.

Students gained hands-on career skills in the competition through interviews, tests, role-play scenarios, online simulations and written project reports. Business professionals judged the competitions, giving students an even more real-life look at the skills needed for their future career.

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

## Gateway hosts expanded community-wide Celebrate Earth Day event

Gateway Technical College helped host another successful Celebrate Earth Day, an event designed to increase environmental awareness and help participants become better stewards of the environment.

Gateway Technical College, along with Keep Kenosha Beautiful, Green Kenosha, Snap-on Incorporated and many other area organizations concerned with the environment partnered in the environment event held on Gateway’s Kenosha Campus.

The event expanded this year to include even more opportunities for the community to learn about



Laura Funk and Keli Mielke took home first-place honors at the 48th Annual Delta Epsilon Chi’s International Career Development Conference.

For more information, contact Mike Vernezze at (262) 564-2744, [vernezzem@gtc.edu](mailto:vernezzem@gtc.edu), or Barbara Michel at (262) 564- 2406, [michelnb@gtc.edu](mailto:michelnb@gtc.edu)



There were many hands-on activities for adults and children at Celebrate Earth Day hosted by Gateway [www.gtc.edu/earthday](http://www.gtc.edu/earthday)



environmental issues, drop off items for recycling, pick up free compost and saplings and enjoy even more workshops, activities, plant sales and displays.

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

## Gateway begins drilling work for geothermal energy unit

Gateway students are drilling five, 3-inch, 100-foot deep holes on the Kenosha Campus as a way to highlight its drill training program – the only one of its kind in the nation.

President Bryan Albrecht kicked off the drilling work during a ceremony at Celebrate Earth Day next to the Horticulture Building greenhouse.

Gateway will install a 60,000 BTU direct exchange heat pump system which will be hooked up to another earth-friendly heating system inside the building. The geexchange system will heat units underneath greenhouse seedling beds to help the plants germinate and grow more efficiently – as well as reducing energy costs to that building by 50 percent to 60 percent.

Gateway geothermal drilling training allows for copper to be used for geexchange systems in Wisconsin. Using copper tubing underground means homes even in cities and urban areas with smaller lot sizes in Wisconsin will still have enough space to fully install and use the system.

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

## New torque-wind program partners with Snap-on

Snap-on Incorporated, in partnership with Gateway Technical College, has created a national torque certification program designed to meet the needs of the growing global wind power generation industry.

This program in torque technology will provide the student with hands-on learning of torque techniques, bolting applications, and tool set-up and selection concepts within today's wind industry. Torque is the turning motion used to tighten or secure a fastener to achieve proper clamping force.

Gateway program administrators continue to ensure that the skills taught through the program are thorough and meet the needs of industry. The program will offer hands-on training that will guide the student from learning



Gateway President Bryan Albrecht and instructor Tom Niesen begin to drill the first hole on the Kenosha Campus to demonstrate the college's new geothermal program. For more information, call Tom Niesen at (262) 564-2610



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torque fundamentals and hand tool applications to advanced technology equipment to training on heavy-duty pneumatic and hydraulic equipment needed in today's wind industry.

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

## Industrial mechanical technician lab opens

Gateway held an open house for its remodeled space on the Racine Campus will help provide workers with the skills to land jobs in a soft economy – and for companies to obtain workers to keep their manufacturing lean and productive.

Gateway held the open house for its new Industrial Mechanical Technician Lab on the Racine Campus. The lab contains new equipment including lathes, machine tools, hydraulic trainers, industrial trainers and laser alignment trainers.

Gateway is holding its first Machine Repair Boot Camp in the space this spring and early summer, and the Gateway program will begin there in Fall 2009.

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

## Law enforcement academy graduates 18

A total of 18 graduated from the Gateway's Law Enforcement Academy at a ceremony on the Kenosha Campus.

Wisconsin's Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson was the keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony. The recruit speech was given by class president Philip Paulson.

Ryan Sieker with the Kenosha Police Department was honored with the Highest Academic Average award; Philip Paulson with the Mt. Pleasant Police Department earned the Second Highest Academic Average; Daniel Gerlitz with the Town of Linn Police Department received the Top Gun Award.

Other class officers included class treasurer, Nichole Holst; class secretary, Andrew Leiting; and class sergeant-at-arms, Andrew Ciskowski.

Graduates were employed by a number of local law enforcement agencies, including the Kenosha Police



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Department, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, Racine County Sheriff's Department, Burlington Police Department, Mt. Pleasant Police Department, Town of Linn Police Department and the Silver Lake Police Department.

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

## More than 1,000 graduate with associate, technical diplomas

More than 1,000 students were recognized as graduates at Gateway's Associate and Technical Diploma Class of 2009 Commencement on May 18. Twin Disc Incorporated chairman and chief executive officer Michael E. Batten was the keynote speaker.

A total of 434 of the 1,034 candidates participated in the commencement exercises. The ceremony honored graduates from December 2008, and May and August 2009.

Gateway also held a graduation ceremony for the college's adult High School, which recognized 265 candidates for graduation. Of that number, 87 graduated in December 2008. Of that number, 67 attended the graduation ceremony. The diplomas are conferred by the graduate's secondary school district.

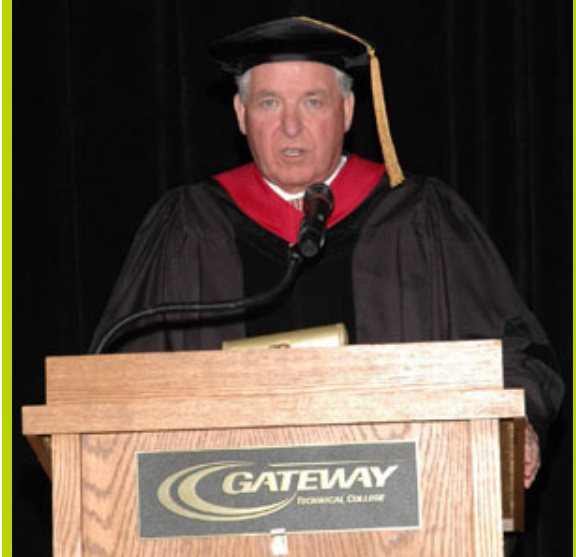
[\[back to top\]](#)

## International Festival in Burlington

Gateway Technical College International Club members teamed up with the Burlington Area School District to present World Festival, an event featuring international food, storytelling, dancing, singing and much more.

The event, held in the Burlington High School courtyard and commons area, featured international cultures native to area residents. Gateway students -- as well as others -- performed songs, stories and dances from their native countries. Performances included a Flamenco dancer, Scottish dancers, a Taiwanese instrumentalist, an African musical group, Burmese singers and storytellers, a Mariachi band, a Korean martial arts group, a juggling club and a Native American group.

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



Michael Batten speaks at the Gateway Technical College graduation.  
[www.gtc.edu](http://www.gtc.edu)



People attending the World Festival were able to learn how to write their name in Chinese.

For more information, [saundersk@gtc.edu](mailto:saundersk@gtc.edu)



## SumoBot robotics competition held at Gateway

Gateway Technical College hosted a robotics competition for middle school and high school students from schools within the Gateway district—Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties.

More than 100 high-school and middle-school students squared off with their self-made, remote-control robots in the Sixth Annual SumoBot competition held at Gateway's Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation.

Students built the robots and then controlled them by remote-control equipment during the competition. There are four competition categories, a non-destructive wrestling competition, a timed task event, a slalom-like timed run, and an oral and written presentation.

A joint team from Walden and Prairie high schools, Racine County, won the competition.

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

## Fiber optics infrastructure to boost educational opportunities

Gateway Technical College is a member of a consortium which has inked a deal to create a fiber optic communication infrastructure that will increase educational opportunities for students as well as help taxpayers and the agencies which serve them.

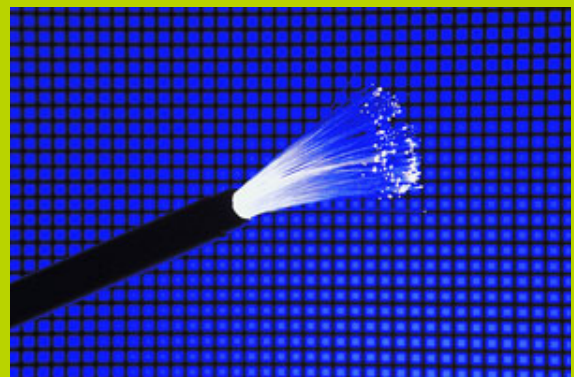
In addition to Gateway, members of the Kenosha Fiber Consortium include Kenosha Unified School District and Kenosha County. The primary goals of the consortium include deploying a cost-effective fiber optic network which meets the growing need for high-speed connectivity for education, public safety and economic development. It will provide for more than 70 miles of fiber going as far west in Kenosha County as Highway 45.

The project will allow Gateway to consider instructional innovations previously unavailable and will allow the college to offer additional media-rich options for students to connect with the courses they need. Examples today include Internet-based applications and streaming video, but this increased broadband capacity will enable new educational uses in the future for academic technology yet to be developed.

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



Students compete at the SumoBot competition hosted by Gateway recently. For more information, [hoppep@gtc.edu](mailto:hoppep@gtc.edu)



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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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