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## Working for a stronger community

In times of economic stress, Gateway Technical College continues to focus on building a stronger community.

With record enrollments and expanded Student Services, it is more important than ever to partner with our community. Recently, Gateway has received new state and federal grants that will support worker training and build capabilities of existing workers through advanced training.

We expanded our partnerships with industry to open the new HERO Center in Burlington, expanded our Surgical Technology and Dental Assistant facilities on our Kenosha Campus, opened a new student center on our Racine Campus, and are in the process of expanding capacity for student services at our Elkhorn Campus. In Kenosha, we are working with the UAW to support the employees of Chrysler and are opening a new apprenticeship training facility.

Each of these efforts alone is a great statement of progress



**Bryan Albrecht**

President, Gateway Technical College

– but collectively they represent an opportunity to leverage Gateway as a valuable community asset to build a stronger community. Recently, we hosted a delegation from Singapore at our college. During that visit, Bruce Poh, CEO of the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore, stated that in Singapore human capital is their country's greatest resource. ""Investing in the potential of our people is critical to our existence in the world economy.""

As we work to build a stronger community, I am reminded of what built our success in Southeastern Wisconsin – the innovative and hard-working people of Southeastern Wisconsin. This is a time in our history that future generations will read about. Together, we can make it one that – when reflected upon – other generations cite the courageous people that brought Southeastern Wisconsin back from one of our nation's worst economic downturns.

Working together we can build a stronger community, and Gateway is committed to helping create a brighter future.

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## Gateway receives national workplace wellness award

Gateway Technical College has been awarded a national workplace wellness award for its programs that promote employee and workplace wellness.

The Omaha-based Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA) recently recognized Gateway with a Gold Award, which designates it as a Well Workplace and puts it on the List of America's Healthiest Companies published by the group annually.

The Well Workplace designation means Gateway is a national leader in corporate health, committed to the well-being of its employees, working to minimize health care claims, and maximizing productivity, as stated in the WELCOA notification to the college.

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## Gateway receives grant to benefit low-income students

Gateway Technical College has received a \$1.8 million federal grant this year that will help low-income health career students earn their degree by providing them with a number of supportive resources and assistance.

This award amount represents the first year of a five-year Health Professions Opportunity Program grant that may total as much as \$9.5 million depending on the amounts determined annually by Congressional appropriations. It will focus on student education and training that will address the needs of low-income students and those who qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Gateway will assist qualifying students through a combination of innovative, individualized approaches including job training, post-secondary education, and other supportive services. This grant was issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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## Gateway provides another option for GED-seekers

Gateway Technical College in October began offering a new, 10-week GED course at its three main campuses which will provide one more option for qualifying students to complete the program in a more traditional classroom setting.

Courses will be offered in the afternoon for those needing to brush up on key skills prior to taking the GED test. Students interested in enrolling in this structured framework course need to request a proficiency level test which will determine whether they are eligible to be placed into the course.

A state grant addressing adult worker education needs paid for the added courses to be held. Tuition for Wisconsin residents is free – a Wisconsin photo ID is required – but an accompanying textbook for the course needs to be purchased.

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## Bryan Albrecht speaks at two national summits

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht took the message of Gateway's workforce development efforts and its sustainable programming nationally to two summits held in Washington, D.C. recently.

Albrecht was asked to speak at the two national conferences aimed at higher education, sustainable or "green" job creation, and ways to address the current economic climate of the country.

Albrecht spoke at the Congress-mandated Sustainability Education Summit hosted by the Department of Education in cooperation with several other federal agencies. The goal of the summit was to articulate a set of action steps for higher education, business and industry, government, and the environmental community to promote the transition to a sustainable, green economy.

Albrecht was invited to present at another national summit. Albrecht participated in a joint Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus news conference on the Skills for America – NOW! Coalition legislative agenda. Albrecht focused his comments on the need to support technical training for a changing job market.

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## Gateway will begin teaching RAMAC training offerings

The Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC) and Gateway Technical College announced they have entered into an agreement to partner on future training offerings for RAMAC's membership.

Gateway will provide its expertise and teach RAMAC's catalog of training offerings. Classes offered this fall range from supervision training to human resource and effective planning.

The move provides RAMAC with the opportunity to tailor course offerings and class sizes to meet the specific needs of its members and the business community.

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## Gateway hosts Singapore delegation

Gateway recently hosted five representatives from Singapore's Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

Bruce Poh, director and chief executive officer of ITE, said Gateway was selected because of Gateway President Bryan Albrecht's presentation. Albrecht was invited to speak at the July 2009 International Conference on Vocational and Technical Education hosted by the Singapore college. Singapore ministry officials selected Gateway as one of five colleges to be visited by Poh in the United States to create benchmarks for college and career success.

Discussions were held regarding improving relations through student exchange programs, partnering with Snap-on Incorporated in diagnostics training, and globalization of sustainability curriculum.

Gateway's leadership team showcased the college's academic success as well as provided tours for the Singapore guests through Gateway facilities.

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## Gateway opens HERO Center

Gateway Technical College opened its new HERO Center – Health and Emergency Response Occupations – a state-of-the-art facility that will provide added opportunities for students, EMS workers, and firefighters to receive realistic, hands-on training.

The \$1.5 million, 12,000-square-foot addition to the facility is located at 380 McCanna Parkway near Gateway's Burlington Center. The opening ceremony featured the dedication of a HERO Center monument, "On Eagles Wings," paying tribute to emergency workers.

The monument includes a piece of the World Trade Center pulled from the wreckage caused by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

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[www.gtc.edu/HEROCenter](http://www.gtc.edu/HEROCenter)



## Gateway offering ELL courses

Do you know someone who wants to improve their English skills? A non-English speaker who wants to learn English?

Gateway Technical College is offering English Language Learners (ELL) courses at Gateway facilities as well as community-based locations throughout the tri-county Gateway District. Courses are free for those who are Wisconsin residents. Out-of-state students pay \$53 per credit hour.

All participants will need to pay for a book expected to cost less than \$40. The book will cover a year's worth of studies. Whether the individual knows a little English or speaks no English at all, courses are designed to meet the needs of all levels of proficiency.

Classes will be held at the Elkhorn, Kenosha, and Racine campuses, as well as the Burlington Center, in addition to the non-Gateway facilities sites. Sign up for classes has already begun.

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## Raiana Mearns named new ELL/GED dean

Raiana Mearns is Gateway Technical College's new Dean of English Language Learners, Adult High School and General Equivalency Diploma programs.

Mearns brings more than 20 years' teaching and administrative experience in these areas.

"What we are doing is preparing people from the community to be successful in their jobs, in day-to-day life, and, most importantly, in achieving their further academic goals," said Mearns.

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## Davidson named to national council

Debbie Davidson, Gateway Technical College vice president, Workforce and Economic Development Division, has been appointed to the American Association of Community Colleges Workforce Commission (AAACC).

The commission consists of presidents and chief executive officers of two-year colleges and representatives from other organizations interested in and connected to the issues facing the commission.

Her appointment will last three years and will give her opportunity to get the Gateway story to national decision makers and bring "best practices" back to Gateway.

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## Gateway remodels Racine campus

Gateway Technical College updated key areas of its Racine Campus Lake Building, providing students better access to the facilities, an updated study space, enhanced commons area, a student activity center, and an area to better connect the community with Gateway and the services it provides.

Work to the building interior exterior and campus grounds is nearly complete, the first major work to be done to the commons area of the campus since 1976. Extensive remodeling will firmly establish the Lake Michigan side of the Lake Building as the main entrance to the campus with an atrium and outside seating.

The remodeling done to the 10,035-square-foot commons will provide students with a main entrance to classes and student services. The remodeling enhances the existing food service area and dining room, with a coffee shop, student activity center, library lounge area, cyber lounge area and group study areas to encourage more team building and study time.

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## Gateway offering tractor-trailer driver training

Gateway Technical College in partnership with Eagle Training Services, Inc. began a new five-week program that leads to CDL-A licensing and a career in semi-tractor trailer driving.

This occupational area has among the largest number of openings each year. The U.S. trucking industry will need to hire 200,000 drivers by the end of this year, and will need to add another 200,000 by the end of 2011, according to the state of logistics report from the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.

This program will prepare students to become a professionally trained truck driver. Job placement assistance is included in the program.

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## Annual holiday gifting art and craft show to be held

Last-minute shoppers can find that handmade or unique gift at the third annual Gateway Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE) Holiday Gifting Art and Craft show fund raiser on December 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gateway's Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Ave.

The show will fill the majority of the main academic complex including the Student Commons and the Technical, Science, Service, and Academic Building corridors. These buildings are located on the southeastern end of the campus, right off 30th Avenue.

Nearly 100 crafters and artists will be selling gifts, artwork, home-based décor, and personal products, as well as crafts of all types. The event is sponsored as a fund raiser for GACTE. This professional organization donates the majority of its proceeds to the Gateway Student Emergency Fund, which assists students in meeting short-term financial situations that may otherwise have terminated their ability to stay in college.

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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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