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Previous Issues:

- **Closing the skills gap**
- **Gateway approves policy banning weapons inside buildings**
- **Gateway to expand building, benefit Horticulture students**
- **Bahco tools donates \$70,000 to Center for Sustainable Living**
- **Albrecht moderates national auto aftermarket industry symposium**
- **Gateway names Lauri Howard as director of workforce training**
- **Albrecht leads roundtable at international wellness event**
- **Gateway delivers automotive training internationally**
- **Gateway receives G.I. Jobs Military Friendly school award**
- **Gateway partners with secondary schools to launch VANguard system**
- **Gateway releases Summer 2011 dean's list**
- **Chancellor Debbie Ford discusses future of education**
- **Gateway holds open house for Student Business Incubator**
- **Gateway to receive continued nursing program accreditation**

Closing the skills gap

The need to create jobs is an important component in putting workers back to work and kickstarting our economy – but it is only the beginning. Gateway Technical College will play a key role in another effort.

Specially, we need to reduce a widening gap between worker skills and employer needs and provide industry-driven credentials to meet labor demands locally, regionally and nationally. Technical colleges such as Gateway can provide those certifications to workers, certifications that are portable and industry certified.

Why is skill building so important? There are an estimated 3.2 million open positions in America, including 515,000 positions in trade, transportation and utilities as of June. Many of the Level 2 jobs – defined by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics as needing more than a year of postsecondary training or education, but less than a bachelor's degree – show significant gaps.

In addition, the Department of Labor sees as a solution



Bryan Albrecht

President, Gateway Technical College

industry-recognized, “stackable” credentials with a clearly-defined system of competencies linked to employment opportunities and advancement. Doing so will sustain the economy and provide workers with the skills they need for their career, and for business to prosper because of a highly skilled workforce. In addition, these are skills the worker can take with them wherever they go – solid skills they can build on as they move further into their career.

Technical Colleges are the best at delivering the education and training for these skills. At a news conference in June, President Obama announced a major expansion of Skills for America’s Future, an industry-led initiative aimed at dramatically improving industry partnerships with community colleges and building a nationwide network to maximize workforce development strategies, job training programs and job placements.

Gateway is one of the colleges participating in this effort, to deliver the education and competencies that will ultimately help workers and the economy.

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

Gateway approves policy banning weapons inside buildings

In an effort to provide a safe learning and working environment, Gateway Technical College has initiated a policy prohibiting anyone from bringing a weapon inside any college building.

Signs outlining the policy have already begun to be posted at all entrances to college buildings. “We want to promote a welcoming, healthy and safe environment in the best interest of our students, staff and community members visiting or engaging in an activity at the college,” said Dennis Sherwood, Gateway director of security and safety.

The policy was approved in response to the recently enacted state law allowing for the concealed carry of firearms in Wisconsin. Gateway’s policy bans all weapons inside college facilities which includes – but isn’t limited to – such items as knives and pistols. However, it does exempt law enforcement officers, private security staff members while they are performing their official duties and firearms training instructors.

The Gateway policy does also address how weapons need to be stored in parked vehicles on college grounds. It states that the weapon must be out of plain sight. If the weapon



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is a gun, it must be unloaded and stored in a locked box, or have a locked trigger guard in place.

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

Gateway to expand building, benefit Horticulture students

Gateway Technical College held a groundbreaking for the Pike Creek Horticulture Center on its Kenosha Campus, a project which will benefit Horticulture students and members of the Gateway district community.

The project is an addition and remodeling to the current greenhouse and adjoining buildings. It will add two classrooms and two labs to Gateway's sustainable living and urban gardening programs.

"This center represents a world-class training facility for our Horticulture students," said Gateway President Bryan Albrecht.

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

Bahco tools donates \$70,000 to Center for Sustainable Living

Bahco Tools donated \$50,000 in tools and \$20,000 for scholarships, toward endowing scholarships for Gateway Technical College.

Some of the funding is expected to be used for the urban gardening lab at the new Pike Creek Horticulture Center on the Kenosha Campus.

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



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Albrecht moderates national auto aftermarket industry symposium

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht recently moderated the national convention of the Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium (GAAS) which focused on education issues in North America and the importance of quality training for automotive professionals.

Albrecht said at the symposium, called "The Critical Role of Career and Technical Education for Tomorrow's Aftermarket," that it is important to involve and raise the bar of technical college automotive technical training to produce well-trained technicians for the future. Albrecht is also the president of the President's Advisory Council for the National Council of Advanced Technology Centers.

Gateway provides automotive technician training that is considered a national model approach. Gateway is also a leading partner in the NC3-National Coalition of Certification Centers.

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

Gateway names Lauri Howard as director of workforce training

Gateway Technical College has hired Lauri Howard as the new director of workforce training in the Workforce and Economic Development Division. Howard replaces Ed Knudson who recently retired.

Howard is originally from Grand Rapids, Mich., where she worked for the Business and Technology division of Grand Rapids Community College for 10 years, teaching credit and non-credit courses. She most recently worked, for five years, as an administrator for a large non-profit in the central valley of California overseeing the staff and budget for 35 programs.

Howard is responsible for contracts for service among area employers and high schools, as well as professional development workshops and WEDD faculty oversight.

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

Albrecht leads roundtable at international wellness event

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht was part of a three-member chief executive officer roundtable



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discussion at the international Workplace Health conference.

Albrecht joined CEOs from Canada and the United States on August 24 to help lead the "Leading by Example: Making a Difference Through Workplace Health" discussion. Gateway's national accolades for and success with its staff wellness programs made Albrecht uniquely qualified to help lead the discussion.

The roundtable discussion at the Toronto event focused on helping other executives to understand how wellness programs can benefit their organization and how to successfully implement them. The overall event brought together senior level human resource managers to see how innovative programs such as Gateway's wellness program can positively impact their organization.

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

Gateway delivers automotive training internationally

Through a grant from Higher Education for Development (HED), Gateway Technical College and Shoreline Community College of Seattle faculty members delivered Snap-on Solus Pro diagnostics training to nine automotive instructors in Oujda, Morocco.

The purpose of the grant is to assist the Universitie Mohammed Premier in the development of its automotive program. The training delivered recently was the second phase of the grant. The initial phase was the assessment of faculty and the facility at the college in Morocco in Fall 2010. Since last year, the college has built an automotive training lab and is in the process of replicating Gateway's Horizon Center for Transportation Technology model.

The training delivered to the Moroccan college faculty members prepares them for delivery of their new auto program which has 25 students enrolled, including three young women. Gateway staff members to visit and help deliver the training included administrators Bryan Albrecht, Debbie Davidson and Beverly Frazier as well as automotive instructor Bill Fell.

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



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Gateway receives G.I. Jobs Military Friendly school award

G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has awarded Gateway Technical College the designation of Military Friendly School. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools which are doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students.

The colleges, universities and trade schools on this year's list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience. These colleges and schools are making the grade by offering scholarships and discounts, veterans' clubs, full-time staff, military credit and other services to those who served.

"To be recognized for our college's commitment to serve those who have served our country is a humbling honor," said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

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

Gateway partners with secondary schools to launch VANguard system

Gateway Technical College has launched the distance learning initiative VANguard, a virtual academic network which will allow the college's K-12 educational partners and their students access to classes in topics of which they may otherwise not have access.

The VANguard initiative partners state-of-the-art technology, including video classroom technology, online learning tools and other emerging technology, to meet the needs of K12 students by giving them the opportunity to enroll in classes taught at a remote site. The technology allows schools to expand and share their course offerings and even access some technical college-level courses. It even provides a forum for professional development opportunities for staff members.

Gateway helped establish the system as a way to promote learning opportunities for its K12 partners. Some of the high school courses shared include foreign language and Advanced Placement courses, college courses include psychology and sociology and statewide courses include astronomy and food science.

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



<http://www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/>



<http://vanguard.gtc.edu>

Gateway releases Summer 2011 dean's list

Gateway Technical College has released its dean's list for the Summer 2011 semester. This award is reserved for those students who completed at least 6 hours of postsecondary coursework and who achieved a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. This distinction recognizes the determination, dedication and effort necessary to attain this level of academic success.

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

Chancellor Debbie Ford discusses future of education

University of Wisconsin-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford discussed the future of education – including higher education's role in meeting the goals set by President Obama on the Elkhorn Campus recently.

Ford said education has changed more in the past 10 years than the previous 30 combined and that today's students have different needs than even a decade ago – needs that need to be met by higher education. Yesterday's "non-traditional" students are today's "traditional" students.

"We need to lead this cultural change where we put students at the center of education," Ford said.

Part of doing that entails all higher educational institutions to collaborate to make better use of talent and resources – which, ultimately, benefits students and their ability to successfully graduate and enter their career.

Chancellor Ford's presentation was the final in a series looking at the past, present, and future state of education. The series was created in celebration of Gateway's 100th anniversary.

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

Gateway holds open house for Student Business Incubator

Several Gateway Technical College students and alumni discovered how the college's Student Business Incubator could help them start their own business, at an open house October 20 at the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation in Sturtevant.



For complete list,
www.gtc.edu/deanslist



Debbie Ford,
University of Wisconsin-Parkside chancellor



The event provided a way for Gateway students and alumni to learn about the assistance, services and space available to them as entrepreneurs. The incubator provides a learning lab for students and alumni yet also gives them access and opportunity to run the office portion of their new business from the site.

Facilities and services available to students and recent alumni include semi-private office space, innovation and collaboration space, business plan counseling, mentoring from incubator staff, office services and equipment, access to local investment services as well as other resources and assistance.

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

Gateway to receive continued nursing program accreditation

Gateway Technical College has received continued accreditation of its associate degree nursing program for the next eight years through the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, the maximum number of years that can be given to a college.

The accreditation comes as part of a scheduled accreditation process by the Atlanta-based group which included a comprehensive review of the entire nursing program. The evaluators reviewed student admissions, associate degree nursing program curriculum, classroom and clinical instruction, student evaluations and graduate success on the Wisconsin State Nurse Licensure Exam. Additionally, a number of public meetings were held to gather public, industry and graduate perception of the program.

The continued accreditation of the Gateway program permits Gateway Nursing program graduates to be eligible to apply for the state nursing licensure examination, as well as means Gateway meets the requirements of articulation agreements with several four-year colleges. The college will have to complete a two-year follow-up report as well.

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

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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