



A nurse with heart - Pg 4



Fall 2006



The language of signing - Pg 2

Good News!

High-tech auto technicians must keep learning

As gas prices soar and emission rules tighten, auto repair and maintenance has never been more important. And it's never been more challenging, in view of the sophisticated technology built into today's cars and trucks.

The days of the wrench-and-screwdriver mechanic are gone, according to Jesus Anaya, owner of Anaya's Auto Service in Kenosha and member of Gateway's Program Advisory Committee for automotive training. His three technicians now must also know how to use and upgrade electronic instruments, interpret test data, and understand complex technical manuals.

For example, he says, "We use seven different scanners [cost: \$5,000 each] to detect problems on different makes of car. And we spend over \$1,000 on each one, every year, to buy and install updated software."

For students able to master these complex tasks, well-paying careers beckon, and Gateway offers students two roads to that future:

- The two-year, associate degree program in Automotive Technology. Graduates can work as line technicians at auto dealerships or experimental technicians at other facilities.
- The one-year Automotive Maintenance

Technician Program (leading to a technical diploma). It prepares students to work on brakes, fuel systems, ignition systems, and wheel alignments at a service station, repair facility, or auto dealership.

There are 96 students in the former program, 32 in the latter.

Fundamental training of the kind Gateway offers is vital, says Jesus, but technicians must also keep learning as technology evolves. That's a view he stresses as a member of Gateway's automotive program Advisory Committee.

Bob Braun agrees. He's been a lead instructor in Gateway's Automotive Technician Training Program for four years and has decades of experience in the automotive field.

"Private companies used to do a lot of continuing training," he says, "but much of it has been cut." Gateway reaches some, he says, "but we want to do a much better job." He's excited about the planned national center to help practicing technicians pursue certified training, within Gateway's planned Transportation Center (see sidebar).

As in so many other careers, success in the field of automotive technology will come to those who have the drive to keep learning.



Jesus Anaya (right) opened his independent auto repair facility in 1986, building on what he learned several years earlier in Gateway's Automotive Technology Program. Today, he manages the shop, oversees three technicians (one a Gateway grad), and still works on vehicles himself.



In May, Laura Brantman-Johnson earned an award for academic excellence along with her associate degree in Gateway's Electrical Engineering Technology Program. She now plans to pursue a BS degree in technical communication.

Alumnae find two ways to engineer a satisfying career

Need proof that with drive and determination, you can shape a non-traditional career for yourself? Consider two women who recently earned associate degrees from Gateway Technical College, Racine Campus, in Electrical Engineering Technology (EET).

After high school, Laura Brantman-Johnson studied briefly at a four-year university, then worked at several jobs. She found some aspects of that work rewarding, "but I wanted to do more," she says. "I needed a different kind of training."

Exploring Gateway's website, she boldly decided to enter the EET Program to study electronics, a field she knew nothing about.

Just weeks before classes began in January 2004, this mother of an 11-month-old learned that she was pregnant. But she went ahead with classes full-time, switching to part-time for only one semester, after her second daughter was born.

"I was nervous at first," says Laura, "but people in the program were like one big family. The camaraderie was priceless. I didn't feel intimidated at all." Her instructors got to know each student, she says, and brought real enthusiasm to the classroom. "I've never

met folks so completely passionate about what they were teaching," she says.

Her hard work paid off in May 2006, when she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and earned the EET Program's Academic Excellence Award.

Her advice to other women considering the program: "Be patient and don't get discouraged. If I can do it, you can, too!"

Next, through Gateway's 2+2 Program (see page 4) with the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Laura will pursue a bachelor of science (BS) degree in technical communications.

Mary Aldrich has been an engineering technician since 1999 with Hamilton Sundstrand, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. (UTC), in Pleasant Prairie. Inspired by her colleagues there, she decided to pursue a BS degree in engineering.

Like Laura Brantman-Johnson, she first tried study at a four-year college but was discouraged. "I felt like I would spend years on courses that weren't that valuable," she says.

Gateway, says Mary, was much different. "All of us were there to get an

education. We pushed each other, and we all worked together – men and women. I never felt uncomfortable studying engineering."

For five years, Mary kept working full-time and studied part-time while raising her three teenagers as a single parent. "It was a struggle," she says, "but it was a good example for them to see."

Help from instructors was "fantastic," she says, recalling the time Pat Hoppe (see page 4) provided one-on-one lectures so she could finish an electronics course on schedule.

Valuable, too, was team-focused study. "People don't realize how vital teamwork is in the workplace," she says. Mary speaks from experience: She's a co-author of a sensor-related patent awarded in early 2006 to her employer.

What's next? "I'll definitely pursue my BS engineering degree," says Mary, "through the 2+2 Program if I can." But she's also exploring other job options with UTC that may take her out of the Milwaukee area.

"Wherever she goes, she is going to be an absolutely stellar engineer," says Pat Hoppe.

(Also see MSOE on page 4)

New transportation training center planned at Gateway

Gateway Technical College is working with corporate partners and Kenosha Unified School District to develop a center of excellence for transportation technology training in Kenosha.

The first step will be to remodel the school's Aviation Center, located adjacent to the Kenosha Airport, by late 2007. The updated facility will continue to house the school's Aeronautics-Pilot Training Program, but will also be the new home for Gateway's two automotive programs:

- the one-year (technical diploma) Automotive Maintenance Technician Program, now taught at the Kenosha Campus
- the two-year (associate degree) Automotive Technology Program, now taught at the Racine Campus.

Two other major initiatives are also being considered:

- New programs in diesel engine technology and alternative fuels.
- Creation of a national center for continuing education and training of practicing automotive technicians and related professionals.

Bright job outlook for auto technicians

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 10 to 20 percent job growth through 2012 for automotive service technicians and mechanics (82,000 to 164,000 new jobs). Gateway automotive instructor Bob Braun reports that entry-level salaries of \$15 to \$20 per hour are typical for well-trained technicians in southeastern Wisconsin.



By Fall 2007, the current Gateway Aviation Center will be remodeled to also bring together the college's two automotive training programs now taught in Racine and Kenosha.



Steven Chatman and Naketha Campbell own and operate Upscale Hair Studio in Racine, applying the skills they developed in Gateway’s Barber/Cosmetologist Apprenticeship Program.

Business partnership is a thing of beauty

Steven Chatman was already known as something of an “experimental” hair stylist when he met Naketha Campbell. Both were Racine teenagers at the time, and as he styled her hair, he learned that they shared an interest in the field, influenced by family members as youngsters.

“I heard others describe Naketha as an up-and-coming young stylist, so we began to compare notes,” says Steven, now 25. “We kind of clicked, and have been pretty good friends ever since.”

In fact, in March 2006, the two opened Upscale Hair Studio in Racine as co-owners, capitalizing on their friendship and mutual interest but also applying the skills they gained from the Barber/Cosmetology Apprenticeship Program at Gateway Technical College, Kenosha Campus.

The path to success was not always smooth. Several years ago, both Naketha and Steven started the apprenticeship program, but didn’t finish. “We weren’t quite focused; we weren’t really sure what we wanted,” says Naketha, who is 24. But a few years later, both realized the career benefits of getting formal training and resolved to try again.

They both earned high school equivalency diplomas at Gateway’s Racine Campus and then moved into the Apprenticeship program again.

Steven and Naketha both worked with Carol Bostick of InStyle Hair Salon and a

well known Racine hair stylist. “She took me under her wing,” says Steven. Naketha adds that Bostick helped them stay focused. “She encouraged me to get serious, to see the field as a real career path, and to do the right professional things.”

As apprentices, the pair worked six or seven hours a day, several days a week, for two years, honing their client-service skills. During the final year or so, they also took formal classes at Gateway, studying a range of subjects in detail. Apprentices attend classroom training one 8-hour day, each week for two 18-week semesters.

Both have high praise for their instructors, particularly Mary Gruneth, who restructured the Barber/Cosmetology apprenticeship program and recently retired from full-time instruction after 25 years. She helped grow the program to its present participation of 75 apprentices. “I feel privileged to have been taught by her,” says Steven. “She’s an excellent teacher who really stressed being professional in every aspect of our business,” he says.

Naketha talks with enthusiasm about being an entrepreneur. “I love the feeling of ownership, of having created something.” She encourages others to pursue their career dreams, too. “Start while you’re young, choose a field you enjoy, and get the training you need. Listen to advice from others,” she continues, “and don’t be afraid to make mistakes.”

Gateway-trained interpreters serve the deaf community

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, more than 18,000 people in Wisconsin are deaf or hard of hearing, and one key channel of communication for them is American Sign Language (ASL). Just as important, however, are the services of skilled and creative interpreters who can translate ASL into the spoken or written word, or vice versa.

In southeastern Wisconsin, Gateway Technical College is a leader in specialized training for people interested in assisting the deaf. Gateway offers an Interpreter Technician (IT) associate degree program at its Elkhorn Campus. Full-time students can complete it in two years.

“It’s quite challenging,” says Deb Hall of Racine, a May 2006 IT graduate. “You have to be committed and responsible and ready to work hard.”

Deb notes that learning ASL is just one part of the curriculum. Students also develop cultural sensitivity through the study of deaf history and culture, psycho-social aspects of deafness, and deaf education in America.

Multi-faceted training is essential, says Deb, because “you become someone’s voice, reflecting their personality and interpreting their intentions. That’s a lot of responsibility.”

While raising her two young children, Deb Hall pursued the Interpreter Technician program

part-time, over four years. “That way, I could still be active in the lives of my children and continue working part-time,” she says.

She appreciated Gateway’s flexible learning options, taking several foundation courses close to home at Gateway’s Racine Campus before commuting to and from Elkhorn. She also took some accelerated classes, and used her home computer (“usually at night, after the kids went to bed,” she says) to access Internet-based courses.

“It was tough sometimes being a part-time student, and I was very proud of myself when I graduated!” she says.

Just as important as skills development and cultural study is direct interaction with deaf people in the community (see sidebar). For example, Deb recalls fondly her interactions with graduates from the Wisconsin School for the Deaf who continued their studies at Gateway.

Deb earned state certification months before graduation and has completed several freelance assignments. Her goals now are to sharpen her skills, get more experience, and eventually gain national certification. “You have to keep learning,” she says, “not just to improve yourself but to better serve your clients.”

That attitude is sure to translate into success.



Deb Hall (right) and Lisa Sadowski practice their sign language skills. Both are recent graduates of the Interpreter Technician Program at Gateway’s Elkhorn Campus.

Connecting with the deaf community

The population of deaf and hard of hearing people is significantly higher in Walworth County than in any other part of the state. This fact gives students in the Interpreter Technician (IT) Program at Gateway unique opportunities for learning and interaction.

One example involves the Wisconsin State School for the Deaf (WSD) in Delavan, about 10 miles from Gateway’s Elkhorn Campus. Every year, students at WSD present a play, using ASL. Selected Gateway students (Deb Hall was one early this year) translate for the audience, giving voice to the actors’ words. WSD also gives students access to its extensive library resources.

Another unique activity is sponsored by The Silent Connection, the student professional organization for deaf and hearing students at Gateway. The group sponsors Deaf Culture Day each year in March. This event draws hearing and deaf people together to celebrate the successes and uniqueness of the deaf community and to educate the public about various aspects of deafness.

Gateway strongly impacts southeastern Wisconsin economy



An independent study conducted on the economic impact of Gateway Technical College produced many exciting facts and figures on various ways Gateway contributes to the economy of its communities. Here are a few:

- Gateway accounts for 3.5% of the entire economy of Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties.
- The current workforce embodies approximately 2.5 million credit hours of Gateway study.
- Gateway graduates with a two-year associate degree earn 35% more than a high school graduate
- Taxpayers realize a 5.4% return on their Gateway investment

- For every credit earned by a Gateway student, the state and local community will see social savings of \$17 per year. Savings may include those associated with better health, lower crime, and reduced costs of welfare and unemployment.
- Gateway accounts for a \$339 million increase in the regional income due to skills workers gained through their Gateway education.

Visit www.gtc.edu/econimpact for complete study information. The study was commissioned by the Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc. and conducted by ccBenefits, Inc., which has completed more than 450 economic impact studies across the country using its proven model.



Estella Wilbourn (right) turned her interest in dental health into a new career through Gateway's Dental Assistant Program. She intends to work in the field of general dentistry.

Dental assistant grad is all smiles

Before her children were born, Estella Wilbourn worked as a laboratory office assistant, but she gave up that job to be a stay-at-home mom. As the kids got older, she did temporary work, mostly data entry. But there came a point in 2005, she says, when "they didn't need me at home any more. It was time for mom to get a career!" Estella decided to explore her options at Gateway's Kenosha Campus.

Based on her interests, her Gateway counselor suggested that she enroll in the one-year Dental Assistant program, which could be a pathway to several work options.

"I was impressed by my two instructors, Heidi Gottfried and Donna Kempf," she recalls. "Both were in the dental field for over 20 years, so they had both work and life experiences to

share. They taught us how to handle all kinds of situations."

Estella was also relieved to see that she wasn't alone as an older student. Two classmates were, like her, women in their 40s.

"I really appreciated the hands-on emphasis," she says, "from greeting the patient to mixing materials, handling instruments, and doing x-rays. We practiced on mannequins and typodonts (models of the mouth) as well as on our classmates and real patients."

That "real patient" work included clinical sessions at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago, "practicing on the new recruits!" she points out. She also had clinical sessions at Racine Dental Group and at the Marquette University School of Dentistry.

She finished with a week of intensive clinical practice at the office of an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Kenosha, then a week with an orthodontist in Racine.

Estella received her technical diploma in May 2006, and aims now to go into general dentistry. A first goal is to complete a four-hour test (for which the Gateway program prepares each student) later this year to earn Certified Dental Assistant status to increase her marketability.

For those considering Gateway's Dental Assistant program, Estella stresses again its hands-on training emphasis. "You get to see almost every specialty, in an actual dental-office setting. All the book study in the world doesn't mean anything if you don't have this kind of hands-on experience."

Partnering with the dental community

Gateway Technical College works hard to ensure that the skills of its Dental Assistant program graduates match the needs of dentists in southeastern Wisconsin. And to help achieve this goal, many dental professionals themselves work with the school in various ways to provide valuable support and guidance to the program.

Donation of supplies and equipment is one key contribution.

"Donated supplies multiply the school's ability to teach various approaches," says Heidi Gottfried, BA, CDA, and Gateway program chairperson. Dentists donated nearly \$5,000 just in minor supplies alone over the past 16 months. And they often donate major equipment, too – dental chairs, processors for radiographs, intra-oral cameras, and lathes for preparing prostheses.

About 30 dentists in southeastern Wisconsin also serve as part of the Dental Assistant clinical-site rotation. Students work in large clinics early in their education. But they spend their final days working two, back-to-back, 40-hour weeks in two different private-practice dental offices.

Also important, dentists provide input to the Dental Assistant Program itself. For example, Dr. Joseph Barta (pictured at left), a Kenosha dentist since 1988, is chairperson of the Dental Assistant Program Advisory Committee. (He also participates as a final clinical site.)

"The committee offers feedback on new materials, techniques, and office practices, which helps shape the curriculum," says Barta. "We also point out employment trends, so that Dental Assistants know about potential expanded duties."

"This as our contribution toward ensuring the dental community gets staff who meet the highest standards," he concludes. As proof that the partnership is working, he notes that about 95% of his hires have been Gateway Dental Assistant graduates.



For nursing grad, it's all about heart



Jason Vinson (left), employed by St. Mary's Hospital in Racine, earned his associate degree in Gateway's Nursing program this past May and now aims to focus on critical-care medicine.

In Jason Vinson's family, interest in medicine runs high. Two aunts are in the long-term care field; one cousin is a registered nurse in obstetrics, and two others are currently in the Nursing program at Gateway Technical College.

So, it's not surprising that, six years ago, at age 18, Jason himself started the Nursing Assistant program at Gateway, aiming for eventual study at a four-year college to become a physician's assistant.

But marriage and the birth of a daughter led to a change of plans, and he decided to explore another path: nursing. "As a nurse, I could still be in the medical field, earn the money I needed, and maybe get financial help from an employer for possible future schooling," he reasoned.

Jason was admitted to Gateway's associate degree Nursing program in 2004, doing most of his study at the Kenosha Campus, and found his classes challenging but rewarding. "The first two semesters taught me how to be a sound, fundamental nurse," he says, "but the third and fourth semesters were really eye-opening."

"I was intrigued by critical-care subjects, and I had many eureka moments as I learned more and more about the field," he recalls. "In particular, I found that I just love the heart – its design, its function," he says. And cardiology, he notes, is the key element in critical care, whether in the emergency room or the intensive care unit.

Is a man who chooses nursing somehow less of a man? Jason has dealt with that bias. "This is about caring," he says simply, "and learning to be an advocate for the sick." Men bring a different but valuable outlook to nursing, he points out, just as women bring a valuable viewpoint to male-dominated jobs.

Jason did well in his studies, earning two scholarships in his final year, but the workload got heavy. While a full-time student, attending evening and Saturday classes, he also worked 45 to 50 hours per week at two jobs. As things started to come apart a bit, instructor John Ujcich intervened.

"He kept my spirits up, and pushed me to do my best," says Jason. "But he also helped me face some tough decisions about my workload." Bottom line: Jason gave up his jobs in order to successfully finish his studies and graduate in May 2006.

In mid-June, he joined the cardiac unit of St. Mary's Hospital, in Racine as a Registered Nurse. He plans to work there for two years and then move into critical-care medicine.

That will mean more schooling to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing, and, eventually, a master's degree. But Jason is confident about his future. "If you have a passion to learn and grow, you will excel at what you do," he says. He clearly has that passion.

that's smart.



They reached their goals.

Classes begin August 22. Register now!



www.gtc.edu

Class schedules available at www.gtc.edu or by calling 1.800.247.7122

Over 1,000 Gateway graduates celebrated at May 23 ceremony

Gateway Technical College's Associate Degree and Technical Diploma Class of 2006 Commencement Ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 23, at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Sports and Activities Center, Kenosha. More than 1,000 individuals earned Associate Degrees or Technical Diplomas between December, 2005 and August, 2006.

Following a welcome by Gateway president, Bryan Albrecht, Mary P. Burke, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, delivered the commencement address.

Burke told the assembly, "It is exciting for me to look out and see Wisconsin's future – our leaders, our employers, our innovators. Our state's economy and communities depend on you to take us forward." She applauded Gateway's "unique brand of hands-on training with industry-savvy instructors," and told graduates that "continuing your education... is one of the best decisions you ever made."

She also urged continued commitment by the state to education, development of worker skill levels, new technology, and entrepreneurship.

Another Commencement highlight was the presentation of the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc., to Kara Schmidtke, a 2002 graduate of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Now employed in the Racine office of Balistreri & Associates, a multi-clinic physical therapy provider, she has developed a unique water therapy program. She also continues to support Gateway, and is active in fund-raising for several community organizations.

IBM assigns more responsibility to Gateway in business relationship

IBM has assigned Gateway Technical College the role of supplier of the IBM ACE (Advanced Career Education) eBusiness Application Developer program. The program is a curriculum for training people to develop computer applications that support eBusiness operations.

Gateway was the first North American adopter of the multi-module instructional program. Four other community colleges have since adopted it, with two more in process. Under the new arrangement, Gateway will be compensated not only when additional colleges in North America purchase the curriculum from IBM, but also for its new role as program manager.

Gateway instructor Saad Yousuf will be the "face" of IBM in that role, coordinating other college's program development and implementation. He will offer guidance on delivery models, instructional models, the learning environment, and testing.

Alexandre Rodrigues, IBM Project Manager, says the change capitalizes on Gateway's experience. "They have... built expertise at every level and have developed several of the models we now use. Gateway understands our program, and they understand how colleges must make their decisions and operate."

Gateway also partners with IBM in the marketing and sales of the IBM ACE eBusiness Application Developer program.



Saad Yousuf

Gateway's Albrecht speaks at two major education conferences

At the invitation of the U.S. Department of Education, Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht addressed the First National Summit on the Advancement of Girls in Math and Science, May 15, 2006, in Washington, D.C. Albrecht spoke about "Higher Education/Workforce Development Issues" to this prestigious national policy organization. Albrecht was the only representative of a two-year educational institution invited to speak.

He discussed several programs Gateway Technical College has instituted to develop partnerships with middle and high schools, offering a pathway to help young women feel successful and comfortable in their math and science education. Those efforts include: Young Women in Technology Camps, Pre-College Camps, transferable credit options, adults providing mentoring and role modeling, technology tours, and college awareness nights.

Summit participants included Margaret Spellings, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Sally Ride, the first woman in space; Dr. James Billington, Director of the Library of Congress; and Dr. Patricia Galloway, Past President, American Society of Civil Engineers.

Albrecht also spoke at the Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) on May 30, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, addressing quality learning experiences in a global economy.

He was on a panel addressing, "Students Crossing Borders: How a Sectoral Approach Can Facilitate North American Student Mobility." The session described collaboration among technical colleges and community colleges in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.



Bryan Albrecht

Gateway - a strategic educational choice

Often, study at Gateway Technical College serves as a stepping stone to future educational and career success. That was the case for Carolyn Wicyk, who estimates she saved thousands of dollars on her bachelor's degree by starting at Gateway.

At age 22, she is Banquet Coordinator at the Stout Ale House and Off-Broadway Banquet Center in Menomonie, WI, applying her interest, experience, and education in hospitality services. She earned a bachelor's degree in May 2006 from the nearby University of Wisconsin-Stout, in the field of Service Management.

But Carolyn's path to that professional position really began the summer before her senior year in high school. She was working at Grand Geneva Resort (Lake Geneva, WI) and found that she really enjoyed the customer service aspects of her job.

Back at Elkhorn Area High School that fall, she became interested in UW-Stout's Service Management Program. But she was discouraged by the cost. "I knew that if I wanted to go to college, I'd have to pay for it myself," says Carolyn.

As she pursued her senior-year classes, she learned two things that helped financially.

- Through the Youth Options Program she took Gateway classes that counted for credit both at high school and at Gateway.
- Credits for some Gateway courses could also apply toward the UW-Stout degree.

Carolyn finished high school with a flourish, winning several small scholarships. Then, she entered Gateway's Hotel/Hospitality program on the Elkhorn Campus. She studied for just two semesters, but carefully chose courses transferable for credit at Stout.



Carolyn Wicyk leveraged her resources as well as her Gateway classes to earn a satisfying position as a banquet coordinator.

Despite being a full-time student and also working full-time at Grand Geneva, Carolyn made the Dean's List both semesters.

Just as important, she took a major step toward her financial objective. "By studying for two semesters at Gateway," says Carolyn, "I saved between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Gateway was an excellent option."

She entered UW-Stout just a couple of credits short of sophomore standing. She worked hard – fitting in a semester of study in Scotland – and received her degree from Stout in May 2006.

Though she just started her new job in June, Carolyn expects to take on more responsibility soon, likely for in-house promotions. Longer-term, she's interested in event planning.

In school or at work, she says, the key is to "pay attention to opportunities around you. And when you find one, realize that it will take hard work and dedication to make the most of it."

Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees welcomes new members

Effective July first of this year, two new members were added to the Gateway Technical College District Board of Trustees. They replace board members Dennis Schultz and Judy McFarlane who did not seek reappointment when their terms expired.

The new members are Rebecca Vail and Ronald Frederick.

Ron Frederick

It is not entirely accurate to say that Ron Frederick is a "new" member of the board. He has fulfilled that role two previous times. He served from 1983-1987 and from 1993 to 1998. Ron served as chairperson of the board in 1995-1996. He is also a long-time Kenosha County Board member and held the office of Kenosha County Treasurer.



Ron Frederick

Ron says, "Gateway is special to me. It is truly the educational jewel of Southeastern Wisconsin. I finished high school through the Adult High School program. I believe in Gateway's multi-pronged mission serving various needs for career and technical education."

Ron believes strongly in the ultimate responsibility of the Board of Trustees for all of Gateway's actions. "I take this

position very seriously and will definitely do my homework. It takes a lot of time and I will put the time in that's required."

Ron points out that his favorite aspect of his board responsibilities over the years has been attending graduation. "That's what it is all about—the final product. All you have to do is watch the faces of parents, spouses, and kids of the graduates and see the pride there."

Ron currently holds two positions. He is the executive director of Senior Community Services of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc. Ron is also employed by the Kenosha County AFL-CIO Central as its president. He believes strongly in Gateway's focus on workforce training and sees it in play in every aspect of the workplace.

Rebecca Vail

Rebecca Vail will bring her perspective as a resident of Walworth County as well as her educational experience to the Gateway Board. Rebecca has been the Superintendent of Twin Lakes School District #4 for 18 years. "I very much enjoy the small school community. I'm starting to work with the second generation—kids of former students. It's a different kind of conversation and very enjoyable."

During her tenure at Twin Lakes, she has been serving on and been

exposed to board positions similar to Gateway, but at the secondary education level. "I sought this position because I was excited to work within a different education arena—the Technical College system is so unique in its mission. Everything about Gateway sparks my interest."

Rebecca began her career as a first grade teacher in East Troy, where she taught for six years. She left that position to work on her master's degree full-time. She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, master's degree in Curriculum, and a doctorate in Educational Administration. All degrees are from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Education is in her family's blood. Her mother was a teacher. Her brother is a general education instructor at Moraine Park Technical College (another of the WTCS colleges) and Rebecca's father served on the Board of Trustees for Southwest Technical College (another of the WTCS colleges.)

Rebecca is very service-oriented and is looking forward to broadening her experience level through involvement on the Gateway Board.



Rebecca Vail

The 2+2 Program with MSOE

(Continued from page 1- Engineering)

Students who complete Gateway's Electrical Engineering Technology two-year associate degree program and who meet eligibility requirements can transfer to the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) as juniors to pursue a bachelor of science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Technical Communication. MSOE also offers substantial financial aid.

An instructor's perspective

Pat Hoppe, who has been lead instructor in Gateway's EET Program for the last six years. And he has strong views about what it takes to succeed in the school's technology programs.

"You don't need innate ability in math and science," Pat insists. "But you do need a strong sense of curiosity and the willingness to learn. If you have those two things, we can teach you what you need to know for well-paying engineering jobs."

He also stresses that Gateway's flexible class schedules help students balance work, school, and family responsibilities. "It's one of our real strengths," he says. Pat calls his two former students "shining examples of what happens when we provide flexibility and support for students willing to make that extra effort."



Pat Hoppe

