

GOOD NEWS



Gateway graduates finding jobs, survey says

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Facilities open to train workers

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Gateway degree boosts management climb

Supervisor able to apply, benefit from what she learned immediately

Debbie Schwandt was presented with the opportunity to climb the management ladder. She looked to Gateway to make sure that climb was successful.

"I have a sense of security now that I've earned my degree."

— Debbie Schwandt, Gateway graduate

Debbie earned her Supervisory Management degree in Spring 2012 and oversees a staff as an economic support supervisor for Kenosha County. She points to Gateway as providing the resources and training to help her flourish as



Debbie Schwandt talks with Shalonda Black at their workplace in Kenosha.

For more

■ For more information on Gateway's Supervisory Management program, go to www.gtc.edu/supervisory-management or call **262.558.6015 / 877.797.6891**

a manager — as well as providing confidence that those skills will transfer to any possible future position.

"Gateway gave me everything I needed to succeed at my job," says Debbie. "I feel like I am much better prepared to be a manager in Fall 2012 than I was when I was first started as a supervisor in May 2009.

"It's been a great and fulfilling experience. I have a sense

of security now that I've earned my degree."

Debbie says her direct supervisor encouraged her to enroll at Gateway, telling her the college has much to offer its students and she would benefit from the education. "I did benefit. In addition, Gateway also seemed the most feasible with my schedule, and affordable."

Debbie says the accelerated learning component of the program allowed her to work at her new management role while she attended Gateway, an important component for this single mother. Some courses meet only once a week for several hours to accommodate students' busy schedules. "I would not have been able to commit to the traditional, four-year college schedule," she says.

Debbie says while she had 20 years of work experience, she gained much more training and management principles from Gateway instructors than she had first believed possible.

"They had that real-world experience and not only taught you the concept, but also showed you how to apply it in different ways," she says.

Debbie says she also benefited from participating in the Gateway Biz Squad, a Gateway internship option which provides area businesses with business development resources through students, who gain valuable, real-world experience in the process.

Debbie says she benefited immediately from her training by being able to apply what she learned in the classroom at her new supervisory job.

"To be able to take what I've learned and apply it immediately to my job has made all the difference," says Debbie. "I would learn it in the classroom one day, and apply it the next. I knew what the best practices were because I learned them and applied them immediately. It wasn't by trial and error. I knew because I was trained to do it the right way."

From the classroom to career — immediately

Graduate uses skills he learned at Gateway, on the job



Adam Jacobson says the real-world training he received at Gateway impacted his career before he even left college — and continues to do so today.

Gateway Technical College graduate Adam Jacobson was working in his field while yet a student. Each night he applied the skills he learned in the classroom during the day. His Gateway experience opened doors for his current career at Rose Polymer Composite in Milwaukee.

Adam says the skills he learned at Gateway translated perfectly into the working world, and his instructors guided him to land that first job in his career field — before he ever graduated.

"The two worked hand-in-hand," says Adam. "I would work on a project at the college, then work on it at my job. It was great, positive reinforcement. I really thought I was better able to understand my material and the work. I received a better education and it made me a better employee then, as well as now."

Adam's instructors were approached by an owner of a local business seeking Automated Manufacturing Systems Technology students for his company — and they suggested Adam. The result is that Gateway helped put him on a career path that is growing and exciting, with room for advancement.

"I would not be where I am without Gateway," says Adam.

Adam says he benefited greatly from Gateway's affordable tuition, flexible class schedule and diversity of class options.

Adam says the program prepared him with skills he needs in his career. His current position requires him to work with hydraulics, while his former position required more work with robotics and tech-

nologically advanced machinery. He learned those skills at Gateway.

"The foundation of learning you get at Gateway gives you many options for how you enter your career," says Adam. "The same exact things I learned at Gateway I used at my former position, and (I) use what I learned today.

"I was happy that the degree gave me a lot of basics in many areas, which opens up the number of possible jobs for which one can apply."

Adam says the advanced technology required of robotics and advanced manufacturing are what drew him to the career field initially, when he applied to Gateway directly out of high school. He also was inspired by stories in the local newspapers as well as by family members.

"It's cool to see the robots, to see that everything has a purpose," he says. "You feel like you are on the cutting edge of technology."

Gateway's training and equipment were on the cutting edge of technology, too.

"It was cool to be working on the equipment you knew you would be working on in the field right away," says Adam.

Industry-savvy Gateway instructors know what will be required of workers in the field, Adam says, which also is a strength of the program.

"They brought their experience into the classroom," says Adam. "They weren't professors without any work experience telling you how things would be in your career because they said so. Gateway instructors told us what to expect in the field because they had been there."

"The two worked hand-in-hand. I would work on a project at the college, then work on it at my job. It was great, positive reinforcement."

— Adam Jacobson, Gateway graduate

For more

■ For more information on Gateway's Automated Manufacturing Systems Technology program, go to: www.gtc.edu/automated-manufacturing or call **262.558.6015 / 877.797.6891**

Gateway serves those who served our country

Vets can access programs, counselors, funding

Russel Timms served three tours in Iraq as an Army combat engineer. He graduated from Gateway in 2002 prior to enlisting — but looked to Gateway when he returned to retool his career and build the foundation for his future.

Russel says Gateway has helped him in several ways to forge his future, noting that the college reaches out and serves veterans in many different ways. Workshops, veteran-specific career counselors, hands-on career training and student life opportunities provide veterans with several ways to engage in their college experience and ready themselves for the work force.

"There is a lot going on at Gateway that benefits veterans," says Russel. "The courses, the workshops, the veterans' counselors are great. Everyone is absolutely helpful and this has been a good experience for me."

Gateway has worked hard to meet the

needs of its students who are military veterans. As an example, it was recently named a 2012 Military Friendly School, which honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students.

Jerry Costello, local veterans employment and training representative with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, says federal and state programs provide veterans with many resources to retrain and enter a career, noting that Gateway Technical College has become a very important part of that process for many. Most recently, veterans can access the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, which helps pay for veterans age 35 to 60 to train in a high-demand career field for 12 months.

The program will help veterans to quickly train to enter the work force.

"I see great benefits for veterans," says Costello. "Gateway provides a number of courses under the definition of high-impact, high-demand jobs."

For more

■ For more information on what Gateway offers veterans, or how to access services for veterans, go to www.gtc.edu/va

Costello's office and Gateway this year partnered to hold a veterans-only job fair, linking veterans with area employers. Vietnam War-era veteran and Gateway student Richard Brown, Kenosha, attended the fair. He said being able to meet with future employers face-to-face proved to be productive.

"It was a good way to get around and talk to these people and see what is really available out there for job-seekers," says Richard. "When you apply for jobs online, you really don't get that much of a personal interaction."

Richard is a student in Gateway's Automated Manufacturing Systems Technology program.

"I came to Gateway to update my skills, and that is what I am receiving," says Richard.



Gateway student Richard Brown talks to possible employers during a veterans' job fair at Gateway recently. Gateway reaches out to its veteran students.

Gateway provides skills employers and economy need

Solving the "employment paradox" is being called the key to economic recovery. Many believe technical colleges, such as Gateway, play a primary role in addressing the issue and improving the employment picture in our state and across the country.



Bryan Albrecht
President, Gateway Technical College

In 2011-12, Gateway graduated more than 1,300 students with skills in welding, physical therapy, manufacturing, engineering, information technology, graphic design and many others.

The paradox is characterized by a region with high unmet demand for skilled workers, while the same time faced with high unemployment.

In May, the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce group held more than 50 listening sessions around the state to hear from employers. They offered a resounding plea to get workers who possess the technical skills needed for today's highly trained workforce.

These are skills taught and demonstrated every day by thousands of Gateway students. Gateway's portfolio of 65 career education programs reflects the jobs and careers found throughout our communities. Gateway has led the way in developing new delivery methods to speed up the training for high demand careers such as the 14-week boot camp model of intense, 40-hour per

week sessions which deliver entry level computer numeric control operators or other manufacturing professionals. Supporting a better than 90 percent hiring rate of boot camp completers, manufacturers tell us they want more – and we are continually looking for opportunities to grow these types of programs to meet that demand.

Gateway's traditional associate degree and technical diploma programs produce an amazing number of workforce-ready graduates. This year, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCs) held a strong 88 percent job placement rate for graduates of a technical college within six months of graduation.

Employers confirmed the quality of technical college graduates by continuing to hire and call for similarly-trained graduates in these high skill areas.

In 2011-12, Gateway graduated more than 1,300 students with skills in welding, physical therapy, manufacturing, engineering, information technology, graphic design and many others. Gateway's graduate survey indicated that 96 percent of Gateway graduates are satisfied with the training they've received and a job placement rate similar to the statewide figures.

As your college president, I salute the more than 25,000 students who make up the Gateway student body and each of you who support our communities' working college.



Gateway Horticulture students working with Harborside Academy.

Service learning benefits students, community

Gateway Technical College continues to expand its service learning opportunities to students, providing them a means to apply their technical knowledge while serving the communities of the college district.

"Service learning gives our students real, hands-on experience use their learning to help the community," says John Thibodeau, Gateway assistant provost/vice president Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success.

"We want our students to realize their ability to better their communities through service to others. Our communities benefit now from our students' service activities and in the future because we will have more civically engaged citizens working in our area."

Gateway instructors initially deliver service learning concepts in the classroom before they are applied at partnering community groups. The Serving to Learn Locally class opened to students in Fall 2011 and continued into Spring 2012, with students participating in service learning projects ranging from blood pressure screening to working with developmentally disabled adults.

For more information, go to www.gtc.edu/servicelearning.

RACING TO EXCELLENCE

Partnership helps two to realize dream of racing

Beginning as a small boy, Jon Farino had always wanted to work on a drag car racing crew. Barrie "Bazzz" Young, Snap-on Incorporated's president of sales and franchising, held the same dream.

The Automotive Technology training at Gateway Technical College as well as the partnership forged with Snap-on allowed both of them to realize that dream – Jon works on Barrie's racing team, and Barrie is racing cars again.

"It's something I always wanted to do," says Jon. "I watched drag racing all my life. When the opportunity came up, it's something I could not miss. I immediately jumped on it."

Barrie had raced drag cars 30 years ago and had dreamed of doing so again. He knew of the partnership Gateway and Snap-on held through programs, so he was aware of the high quality training and equipment offered to students. He wanted to involve some of those Automotive students in the race team he was personally sponsoring. "I wanted to see if there was any interest with the students in working on a race car," said Barrie. "Wayne (Ream) and Jon (Farino) stepped forward immediately.

"They have done extremely well.

I think it's a tribute to the training that goes on at Gateway."

Wayne and Jon are members of Barrie's funny car team, working on the car to ensure it operates at peak performance for each race held throughout the Midwest. Cars can race up to 250 mph on the quarter-mile track, and it's essential for the race, and safety, that they are well maintained.

Barrie says Wayne is considered the "bottom end" guy. Among other duties, he removes and checks engine bearings after each race, cleans them and replaces them if needed. Jon is one of the "top end" guys.

Among other duties, he works with Barrie to make sure the fuel is mixed properly, and the engine heads are performing properly.

The real-world experience of being on the team will translate into whatever specific area of automotive technology he decides to enter, says Jon.

"It has helped me to better troubleshoot any engine or vehicle issues," says Jon. "Between every single race, we have to rebuild the engine and there is a lot of maintenance on the car – all of that will help me when I work on a regular car."

Jon says he's grateful for the opportunity to work on a race car crew and the benefits of doing so are immeasurable.

"Without this opportunity, without the partnership Gateway has with Snap-on, this never would have been possible for me. I really don't think I would have had this opportunity to be able to work on a drag race team without Gateway. This was a chance of a lifetime, all thanks to Gateway."



Snap-on executive Barrie Young wanted to fulfill his dream of racing funny cars again -- and turned to Gateway, because of its strong Automotive Technology training, to recruit two members of his racing team.



Theresa Burns and Cathleen Moreno work recently in Theresa's office. Theresa says Gateway gave her added training in a career field she had already worked in for many years, allowing her to upgrade her salary and career by being eligible for more positions.

Gateway gives tools for grad to upgrade skills, career

Theresa Burns says the training and education she received at Gateway provided the means to upgrade her skills, career earnings and future.

Theresa entered her career shortly after graduating from Gateway's Administrative Professional program, benefiting from the practical experience, hands-on training and edge she says they gave her in the interview process. She's since upgraded her wages, benefits – and opportunities for advancement.

"I really believe that it was because of Gateway that I was able to get this position so quickly," said Theresa. "I was prepared because of my training and education at Gateway. I walked into the job interview with confidence that I could do whatever they asked me to – and I am able to do so."

Theresa said the skills she learned included training on technology she would see in her career today, professionalism and office skills in nearly every area.

"Gateway really showed me that anything is possible in my field," said Theresa.

Theresa was an administrative assistant in the field of education for more than 20 years at the time – 14 as a supervisor – when she began looking for a way to upgrade her career and earnings to help out with the family budget. Time and again, she was unable to land a position in the corporate world.

Theresa said she finally realized it was a

lack of training and certification that kept her from landing those positions.

"I couldn't figure out why I was unable to get those jobs," she said. "I had a lot of experience as an administrative assistant. Finally, I asked, and businesses told me they give greater consideration to those who have earned their associate degree. I knew then I had to better myself and earn that degree."

She said while she did know a lot about the duties of an administrative professional, Gateway gave her the training to refine her skills and update them for the current corporate workplace.

"I thought I knew everything about working in an office," she said. "They updated my skills and I learned more than I ever thought I would know."

Theresa worked full-time while she attended classes – both online and at campus – but was still able to engage in the campus life provided at Gateway. "There were a lot of fun things to do with my classmates," she said. "It was just like at a university."

Theresa says in addition to a new career with better pay and benefits, she was able to earn her degree quickly and affordably.

"This has also benefited us financially in that I can see myself being able to grow within the company I work at. And I'm able to do so because of what Gateway did for me."

New program trains students in growing career

IT-Security Analyst program mirrors industry training

Information technology and the tools it powers have become commonplace in society, making the world easier, work more efficient and personal lifestyle that much richer.

IT has also, unfortunately, made personal and business information easier to access and steal for those wishing to do harm.

Industry officials have responded to this threat, growing the number of positions for those trained and skilled in keeping this important information safe and secure. Gateway Technical College has

also responded, initiating its own IT-Network Specialist Security Analyst degree to meet the need for these qualified technicians.

"The demand is high for security professionals," says instructor Shari Due. "It's a growing field. We believe that the need – and this program – will continue to grow with changes in technology and the need for business to be more secure. Privacy issues have continued to become more and more prevalent and, with that, the need for security to keep those data systems secure."

Security analyst degrees provide for solid-paying jobs in a field expected to continue to grow over the next several years. Positions can pay easily \$30,000 to \$40,000 to start and, with added training and responsibility, up to \$100,000. All companies today must protect their information technology infrastructures, including phone systems, and therefore have a need for security analysts.

What's created for potential students is the perfect opportunity – the jobs exist now, training certifications are readily available, and, because all businesses need information technology systems to operate, the field is expected to remain strong into the future. In addition, since the number of open security analyst positions are growing, the need for supervisors and others with experience is expected to grow, too, as companies hire several analysts to work for them.

Students and working professionals alike can benefit from the Gateway program. The Security Analyst program provides seven courses which are different from the IT-Network Specialist program. That means students have options: They can earn their Security Analyst degree; they can earn their Network Specialist degree, and then take the seven differing courses to also earn the Security Analyst degree; or, working professionals already possessing an approved degree but seeking to upgrade their skills can also enroll in the program to take the seven courses, as well.

Courses are industry-aligned, says Due, and the new skills demanded of industry-led certifications are the same as the Gateway courses. The college has also invested in capital expenditures to ensure that the equipment is up-to-date and the same which graduates will use once they enter their career field.

For more information on Gateway's Security Analyst program, go to www.gtc.edu/security-analyst



Gateway Technical College Lead Culinary Arts instructor Susanna Elrod, center, works with Gateway student Patricia Ratliff during a baking class at the college. Gateway is introducing a new program so that students like Patricia have the opportunity to open, operate or work at a retail bakery store.

Expansion provides real-world training for students

Culinary Arts students beginning in Fall 2012 will benefit from an expansion, remodel and equipment update to the culinary arts kitchen.

Gateway Technical College Board members approved a \$1 million project to remodel and refurbish the existing 2,600 square-foot culinary arts space as well as add a walk-in freezer to the north side of the building. The new space will also provide an excellent hands-on training facility for a new retail bakery program being started in Fall 2012 where students will be able to produce and sell baked goods on site.

“Our students will benefit from being trained on modern equipment used in the world of culinary arts today,” said Lead Culinary Arts instructor Susanna Elrod. “The added space will also provide a great opportunity for students to engage in an internship for the bakery certificate.”

The expansion will be completed and ready

to be used for training and classes in Fall 2012.

The 8-credit, four-course Baking and Pastry Arts Certificate, 90-316-8, offers Culinary Arts students with a comprehensive, hands-on experience with baking and pastry arts. The certificate includes presentation of conceptual knowledge and opportunity for practical application to create high-quality baked goods.

Elrod says the demand in the industry has increased for workers with the skills provided through the certificate, including offering students the ability to open, run or work in a retail bakery business.



Facility work to make accessing services easier

Remodeling work done to the Racine Campus in Summer 2012 and Fall 2012 will make it easier for students to access the Gateway services they need and provide a state-of-the-art kitchen for Culinary Arts students to learn their future career or open their own bakery.

The work represents three straight years of remodeling to the Racine Campus, resulting in providing students with modern equipment, updated study space and efficient services areas which will help them enroll, engage in and access the tools needed for a positive Gateway education and career foundation. Work has been done inside and outside of the buildings.

Racine Campus Dean Ray Koukari

says students are the reason for the remodeling, focusing on their needs whether it is while at Gateway or in the workforce.

“We are seeking to meet the needs of the students who are enrolling here, attending here and nearing their graduation, to provide their foundation for career and life,” he says.

A large area is being remodeled into a new Student Services area on the Racine Campus, which will put all the services students need to enroll and navigate their Gateway journey in one area.

“It will, simply, make it easier to gain access to Gateway and what we provide

to students,” says Koukari. “The services were located in a couple different areas. Now, they will all be focused in that one area. It is more organized and will make that process so much more efficient for our students.”

In addition, space has been configured to make resources more readily accessible through how key services are positioned in the area.

The campus bookstore will also be moved directly below the 12,000-square-foot Student Services area which will make it easy for students to obtain their course books and other materials once they sign up at the Student Services office.

New center grows opportunities for Horticulture students



The new Pike Creek Horticulture Center will offer students a hands-on training facility to prepare them for their career.

A new Gateway Technical College center provides Horticulture students with expanded opportunities for career training and building a foundation of management and entrepreneurial skills.

The Pike Creek Horticulture Center on the Kenosha Campus offers students a hands-on, science and industry-focused site for training to enter their career. It also will provide the community with a place to meet and discover the latest innovations in horticulture and sustainability.

Pike Creek Center basics

- Improved greenhouses
- Doubling of Horticulture class space
- Increased lab space
- Retail area to support the students' entrepreneurial efforts with their fundraising plant and vegetable sales.
- The space will be used by all Horticulture programs.

This attractive addition and remodeling will result in improved greenhouses, more than twice the amount of classroom space, added lab spaces and a retail area to support the students' entrepreneurial efforts with their fundraising plant and vegetable sales. Modern video equipment coupled with science-based equipment for the building's soil lab give students tools to enter their career.

The space will be used by all Horticulture programs – Greenhouse and Floral and Nursery and Landscaping associate degrees and the Urban Farming advanced technical certificate.

“I think the center will help me as an instructor,” says Gateway Horticulture instructor Kate Jerome. “I have all the tools I need here, at one central place, which I can use to train my students and equip them to not only enter their career, but also to hone the skills needed to help them compete in a fast-paced, technical industry.”

“The building design is inspirational and I know the students have been inspired by the fact that all Horticulture programs are now housed in this modern building and lab.”

Gateway officials began planning for the center in response to the needs of the community.

“Gateway Technical College is responding to a growing regional need to expand our commitment to the profession of horticultural and landscape design,” says Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

The dedicated, upgraded classroom space and soils lab will provide students with a more efficient learning experience. Students will no longer have to leave the center to take Horticulture classes in other areas of the campus. A large divided classroom can open up to become a small conference and demonstration area where larger groups of students or the general public can learn. The classrooms and labs are being designed specifically for Horticulture programs' use so work tables, lab tools and demonstration items will be modern and dedicated specifically for Horticulture use.

One of the most critical aspects of the new building is its built-in capacity to help students train as entrepreneurs.

“The equipment will help them to learn project management,” says Jerome. “It will provide them with the means to work on a project from initiation to completion.”

The community, too, will access the center for much-anticipated yearly plant sales of annuals and perennials.

Urban farming, a new initiative (and an advanced technical certificate) of the Horticulture program, will be taught at the center. The harvested vegetables, herbs and flowers grown by students at the program's demonstration gardens at the campus' Center for Sustainable Living will be sold to the public from the new Pike Creek Horticulture Center during the growing season.

Educators in kindergarten through 12th grade can use the center as a way to teach students about the horticulture industry and processes, as well.

New Elkhorn center helps students better access resources

Gateway Technical College's new Learning Success Center on the Elkhorn Campus provides students with added resources to help them with testing, adult basic education, tutoring, English Language Learner and special needs services.

The center, in a remodeled area where the campus library formerly was housed, brings all of the Student Success services into one area with additional staff hours.

“This is a wonderful space for students,” said Raiana Mearns, dean of Adult Basic Education, Adult High School and English Language Learner programs. “It is a great learning environment where students will feel comfortable to learn and develop in. This brings all of the services under one roof, which should help our students to receive the services they need, and quickly.”

Services were offered at the campus prior to this, but were in separate office spaces, forcing students to go sometimes to different buildings for related resources. Having them in the same space is not only convenient for students, but also provides the opportunity for them to engage in all the resources they need.

The newly renovated 5,700-square-foot space is larger than the former office spaces combined, and will provide more computers for students to use, as well as private breakout rooms for tutoring and test taking. This individualized space for testing is also an added feature of the center.

“It will provide several advantages to students, in terms of synergy and the ability to work with one another in a supportive environment, with access to tutors and resources that are right there for them,” said Elkhorn Campus Dean Mike O'Donnell.

Expanded facility to address critical workforce skill shortage

A 15,000-square-foot addition to an existing Gateway Technical College facility will provide critically needed programs and equipment to address a shortage in trained workers for area manufacturers unable to find enough skilled employees.

Business leaders said at the groundbreaking for the integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant, the need for the training to be offered at the facility exists now – and into the future.

The two-floor addition will be made to the facility formerly called the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI). Its name was recently changed to the iMET Center to reflect the scope of training to be offered.

Debbie Davidson, vice president, Gateway Workforce and Economic Development Division, said the center will provide needed training quickly and tailored to area business needs.

“This will provide space for just-in-time, flexible training,” said Davidson. “It will be a training center for employers seeking to upskill their incumbent workforce quickly as well as provide training for entry-level workers.”

The center will host the region's first flexible manufacturing lab dedicated to training the manufacturing workforce. Included in the manufacturing space will be classrooms and work areas providing an ideal environment for individual and collaborative project-based learning experiences.

Short-term, customized, modular and boot camp training in CNC machining, industrial



Tim Sullivan, state of Wisconsin Special Consultant for Business and Workforce Development speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony at the iMET Center. The center will be a regional facility to train workers for in-demand career fields, benefiting workers as well as area businesses.

maintenance, robots, welding and fabrication as well as industrial trades apprenticeship training will be offered at the iMET Center.

Tom Shinnars, of Poclain Hydraulics and Racine County Economic Development Corporation president, said the facility will greatly benefit area employers – as well as provide a recruiting tool for more businesses to locate in Racine County and southeastern Wisconsin.

“Potential employers, as they are considering Racine County, nearly always ask what type of engineering, technical education and skilled training is available,” Shinnars said. “A center like this is a huge development for this area.”

In addition to addressing worker and tailored business training needs, the center will also provide hands-on career exploration opportunities for K-12 students. They will be able to see and interact with

For more

■ For more information on Gateway's integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Center, go to www.gtc.edu/imet

welding, computerized machining and other processes work as they consider their career or education pathway.

“What is being done here at iMET is critically important,” said Tim Sullivan, state of Wisconsin Special Consultant for Business and Workforce Development, the former CEO at Bucyrus International Inc. “What we need to do is fix a (worker) pipeline that is broken and has been broken for a long time.

“The challenge is to provide the training needed for the jobs that are available. The program, staff and facilities here today will address the skills gap locally as well as regionally.”



Gateway's internal certificates deliver specific training needed in the work force today. Certificates cover a number of career fields, including health care.

Internal certificates quickly prepare students for work

Training provides skills for current workers to upgrade career, earning potential

Gateway's internal certificates meet the needs of students and current workers by quickly delivering specific training and credentials needed in the workforce today.

Certificates are set up through the input of curriculum committees and area business leaders to ensure that the skills are those which are needed the most for specific industries – providing training and skills sought by employers. Enrollment for the certificates is flexible, too – anyone can enroll, even those who are not currently Gateway students.

For more
To see all of Gateway's certificates, go to www.gtc.edu/certificates

Workers in the field may see their job description change as the needs of their employer changes – oftentimes, requiring skills they fail to possess. The internal certificates can quickly deliver that needed training, whether it's adding to the job skills of their current work area or introducing them to a completely different career.

Gateway students benefit from the certificates by gaining the opportunity to acquire specific, real-world skills and credentials they can use to land a job, but also to continue their education and earn their degree and the increased earning potential that goes with it.

The short course outline of the certificates – in most cases three to six courses, or 9 to 18 credits – allows students to complete them yet also build on them toward a diploma or degree. The credits earned apply toward the related associate degree program – providing students the added time to earn as they continue to learn.

An example of an internal certificate is the 23-credit Medical Billing, Gateway's most popular internal certificate. It trains students to analyze health information and assign codes to index diagnoses and procedures to support clinical care, to assist medical research, and to provide information for reimbursement purposes. This may meet the needs of someone seeking to upgrade their skills or enter a new career. The anticipated wage range for certificate completers is \$11 to \$20 an hour.

Completers of the certificate also earn four related health care industry coding credentials, and can apply those credits toward a Health Information Technology degree if they wish to continue their Gateway education.

Another example is the internal gerontology certificate – the fifth most popular certificate among students – to be used for those who are seeking employment working with the elderly. The 18 credits earned for the certificate will go toward a Human Services degree – but still give completers training to work in specific areas of eldercare.

Certificates also allow students to earn their degree at a slower pace, if needed – the certificate will provide them with the credentials to enter the workforce, but they can also come back and build upon those credentials toward a full degree.

Certificate students are eligible to apply for financial aid only if they are also enrolled in the related associated degree program.

Graduate benefits from industry-savvy instructors

Knowledge, technology help fuel current job

Industry-savvy Interior Design instructors and resources for hands-on learning gave Damiris Ramos the skills for a career field which allows her to use her creativity and knowledge of technology to design useable, working and living spaces.

Damiris says Gateway instructors took the time to fully explain all the educational concepts to students and were as helpful as possible when questions arose – always with the goal of delivering training for the skills to help students successfully enter and succeed in their career.

For more

■ For more information on Gateway's Interior Design program, go to www.gtc.edu/interior-design or call **262.558.6015 / 877.797.6891**

“They would go the extra mile to make sure that you understood all the concepts,” says Damiris. “I’ve been to other colleges where they didn’t take that extra time and didn’t seem to care if you understood it or not – if you didn’t, they would just tell you to work it out with a tutor.”

Damiris says Gateway instructors were also willing – and able – to bring their firsthand experience of the industry into the classroom and prepare students for the industry they would soon enter.

“I was fortunate to have learned from Gateway instructors,” says Damiris. “One of the strengths of the Interior Design program is the instructors and the hands-on knowledge that I was able to gain from them. They brought in their experience to the classroom, which prepared us to enter our career field.”

Skills Damiris gained at Gateway allow her to work with AutoCAD software, something she has done as a part-time freelancer and hopes to do full-time in the near future.

“Everything I learned about CAD I learned at Gateway,” she says.

Damiris began her college education directly after graduating from high school in 2004 by enrolling and attending a four-year art



Gateway Interior Design degree graduate Damiris Ramos says she benefited from the program's industry-savvy instructors and hands-on training.

school and majoring in fashion design. There was a miscommunication about scholarships and cost after three years – she left the college then took a three-year break.

She was drawn to Gateway's Interior Design program because of its similarities to fashion design, the flexible class schedule, the access to training materials and even the Gateway bookstore. She worked full-time the

entire time she was earning her degree, but says her instructors and counselors were understanding and helped her to work through that process.

“I discovered a lot of the things I learned at Chicago, but I was learning them in a different way,” says Damiris. “I also like Gateway because it's so accessible. Everything is there, it was convenient in many ways.”

Gateway grads overwhelmingly satisfied with the education

Gateway nursing student Maurice Thomas III says he believes his educational training will equip him well for an in-demand job field.

He's satisfied with his Gateway training – and many current Gateway graduates agree with him.

Gateway's most recent graduate survey – from 2011 – indicated 96 percent of Gateway graduates are satisfied with the training they received.

The 2011 Graduate Survey, released this summer, indicates 85 percent of Gateway graduates landed a job within six months of graduation. Wages averaged about \$16.84 an hour, with wages ranging up to \$36 an hour. In 2011, Gateway graduated more than 1,300 students with skills in welding, physical therapy, manufacturing, engineering, information technology, graphic design and surgical technology.

Maurice says he was drawn to enroll at Gateway because of its commitment to real-world, hands-on training.

“I am a Racine native, I have lived here all

of my life, and when I decided to attend college, I knew that I wanted to attend Gateway,” says Maurice. “I know that the easier way for me to learn is hands-on, and Gateway Technical College was my first choice.”

Maurice says he was inspired to become a nurse because of a medical procedure he had received years ago and the professional and kind treatment he received from the attending nurses. He's happy he has enrolled in the Nursing program – also noting the high job placement rate for nursing graduates. Nearly 94 percent of the Nursing program graduates indicated in the graduate survey that they were employed in the health occupations field, with the average hourly salary at \$25.76.

“There is high demand, especially for men, in the nursing field,” says Maurice. “There is a lot of job security with that high demand. That's great to know as I earn my degree.”

Statewide this year the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) held a strong 88 percent job placement rate for graduates of a technical college within six months of graduation.



Gateway nursing student Maurice Thomas III says he believes his educational training will equip him well for an in-demand job field. He's satisfied with his training, and many current Gateway graduates agree with him.

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