

GOOD NEWS

“My Gateway degree gave me the confidence, and ability to do my job even better.” – Mike Dunning

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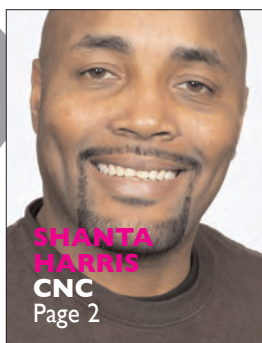


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“The assistance helped me to focus on my classes and my program – I’ve grown professionally and academically.” – Viola Howell

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HOW DO YOU GATEWAY?



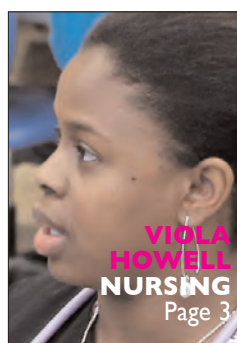
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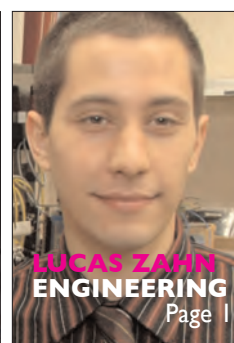
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Interesting question, but the answer is: You can “Gateway” in a number of ways.

You can Gateway if you're a parent seeking an affordable option for your recent high school graduate to explore. You can Gateway if you're still in high school, seeking an indication of the pathway to your future career. Just ask Lucas Zahn.

You can Gateway if you still plan to earn a four-year degree, but want credit for all that you've earned and paid for your first two years. Just ask Lucas Zahn.

You can Gateway if you've found yourself laid off and needing skills to get back into the workforce - you need to get back into it quickly, but in a career-sustaining industry. Just ask Cyrene Olson.

You can Gateway if you would like that added training to keep your job and skill set even more valuable to employers. Just ask Shanta Harris.

You can Gateway if you've been in a career for years - and haven't seen the inside of a classroom

for just as many - but want to make sure your training and skills are completely up-to-date to do the best job possible. Just ask Mike Dunning.

You can Gateway if you need to work through college, are a parent, but need a little help and direction to stay in college and be successful. Just ask Viola Howell.

No matter how you Gateway, the result is always the same - enrolling at Gateway Technical College will result in the skills to help you find a new job or give you greater relevance and

value in your current job.

Even though the wheels of the economic engine have begun to turn more strongly lately, the need for the skills provided at Gateway remain as important today as yesterday. There simply is no better way to increase the odds of remaining at a job and career than to stay current with your training and education.

There are many ways to Gateway. We invite you to chart your path to Gateway - and your future.

High school students can earn credit

There are five different ways to earn dual credit, which appeal to high school students - as well as their parents, seeking to find a more inexpensive, yet quality, way to gain skills and earn a college degree.

By the numbers

- 1,559:** Students earning transcribed credit
- 661:** Student Involved in Youth Options
- 116:** Individual courses taught districtwide
- 44:** High school teachers certified to teach Gateway courses
- 32:** Students earning advanced standing
- 16:** High schools involved

For more

www.gtc.edu/
collegeconnection/

program of choice - while saving dollars. Popular programs for high-schoolers to take courses in include Marketing, Information Technology, Automotive Technology.

Advanced Standing - Advanced Standing courses are high school courses that align 80 percent with a Gateway course, credit is awarded when students enroll at Gateway after high school.

Youth Options - High school juniors and seniors gain hands-on training at Gateway campuses in college courses. Youth Options courses are offered only for those courses the high school does not offer. Earn high school and college credit.

Distance Learning - Virtual college courses allow students to experience free courses without leaving high school. Video and online tools are used to deliver courses using a school's VANGUARD classroom, taught by Gateway faculty.

Youth Apprenticeship - Many students who've completed a State of Wisconsin-recognized youth apprenticeship can apply the education they've earned toward a Gateway program.

Cost avoidance for high-schoolers taking transcribed credits

High school student enrolls in Gateway transcribed credits for Information Technology and earns 16 credits.

Wisconsin Technical College System per credit cost: \$122.
16 credits earned, student costs avoided: \$1,952

Student graduates high school and enrolls at Gateway to finish their IT program. They earn the remaining 51 credits for associate degree. 51 credits earned cost \$6,222

Total cost for credits earned: \$6,222
Costs avoided for associate degree: \$1,952

Student graduates Gateway and enrolls at UW-System college to earn a four-year degree in program. They transfer to four-year college as junior, and have only two years left to complete degree, because of transfer agreement between colleges.

Cost amount for first two years at UW System college: \$19,764
Cost at Gateway: \$6,222
Costs avoided through Gateway: \$13,542



Gateway provided training – and insight for engineer

Lucas Zahn says his Gateway degree helped him decide upon his future career, prepared him well for that career - and saved him about \$70,000 in tuition along the way.

Lucas Zahn had no clear-cut career choice when he entered LakeView Technology Academy - but wanted one. He quickly reached his goal as he began taking Gateway courses at the high school academy, though, opening his mind and giving him the skills to a career filled with potential.

Engineering was - and is - his future, and he points to those first few Gateway courses he took as the catalyst to cement his career goals.

For more

For more information, go to www.gtc.edu/eet, or www.gtc.edu/good-news/eet

“I wanted to see what career fields were out there for me. I liked computers, electronics and engineering and went to LakeView Technology Academy to expand my horizons. I was able to try out Gateway courses in each of these areas - and realized, for sure, that I wanted to be in electrical engineering,” says Lucas.

Gateway offers dual-credit courses at the academy through Kenosha Unified School District, which means students there take college courses that apply toward their high school diploma and a Gateway degree.

Once his goals were set and he took more courses in the Electrical Engineering Technology program, Lucas says the practical hands-on training, experience with a diversity of students in the classroom and training to strengthen his “soft skills” gave him the foundation for success in his current job as an electrical engineer at a worldwide hydraulics design and manufacturing company based in Milwaukee.

“Gateway made me more outspoken, more confident in my abilities,” says Lucas. “There were many classes where students were older than myself, who had already had life and work experiences. That helped me out a great deal.

“Having the knowledge through the training, and being confident to express it, helped me when I interviewed for my job. I was able to talk about those topics that are important in the interview process - prior to Gateway, I wouldn't have done that. Gateway gave me confidence.”

Lucas graduated from Gateway in 2011 with Electrical Engineer-

Gateway served graduate beginning in high school

Lucas Zahn received a great kickstart to his engineering career through Gateway Technical College's partnerships with high schools as well as four-year colleges - resulting in a four-year education for half the cost.

Lucas earned 23 Gateway credits while still a high school student at LakeView Technology Academy of Kenosha Unified School District. Those Gateway credits he earned for free, transferring them to the college and toward his Electrical Engineering associate degree, as well as applying them toward his high school diploma.

After earning his Gateway degree, he transferred to Milwaukee School of Engineering and entered as a junior, made possible through a transfer agreement between the two colleges. He saved an estimated \$70,000 through the different programs.

“I earned a degree at MSOE for half the price because of Gateway and the transfer agreements,” says Lucas. “Gateway also gave me that firm foundation for my career by providing me with knowledge and realistic training to know what I could expect from the electrical engineering career.

“Gateway was a big help and has been beneficial to my career and life.”

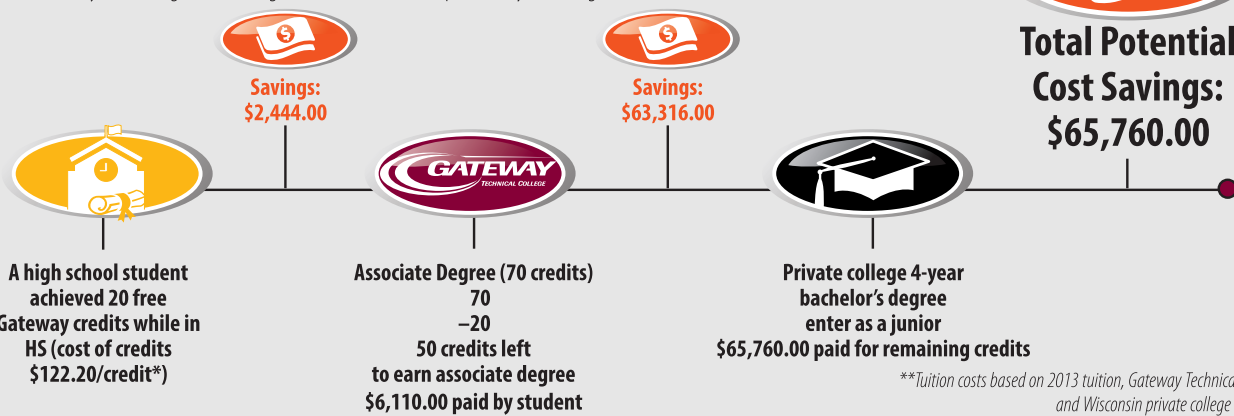
ing Technology and Biomedical Engineering associate degrees.

Gateway's transfer agreement with Milwaukee School of Engineering also allowed Lucas to enroll at the four-year college as a junior, saving him time and money toward his four-year degree - nearly \$70,000, he estimates. He graduated with honors at MSOE, earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology.

Gateway's training helped him succeed at MSOE as well as at his current job, says Lucas. Every day, he uses skills he gained while at Gateway. He adds that specific training he received at Gateway also helped him secure an internship - which turned into his full-time job.

HS + 2 + 2 = Big Savings!

Example: A typical high school student earning Gateway credits, completing an associate degree at Gateway, and using the 2 + 2 agreement transfers to a private 4-year college.



**Tuition costs based on 2013 tuition, Gateway Technical College and Wisconsin private college average.

Gateway puts you back to work, makes you more valuable to new employers

At Gateway Technical College, we put people back to work, increase their skills in their current



Bryan Albrecht
President, Ed.D.,
Gateway Technical
College

Even if you've returned to work, Gateway still offers training for your career to make you even more valuable to your employer.

high school and seek direction and training for that first career - or those who've graduated high school more than just a couple years ago and are returning to the classroom first time. For many, they've been in the classroom before - we have a sizeable number of students enrolled who have earned a bachelor's degree who've turned to us for pragmatic, hands-on training that will land them a job.

More than eight in 10 Gateway graduates have gained employment within six months of graduating from the college, earning an average hourly wage of \$16.69, a recent survey indicates.

Even if you've returned to work, Gateway still offers training for your career to make you even more valuable to your new employer.

Our programs offer real-world training, delivered by industry-savvy instructors. We have several which fall in the skills gap category, too. The skills gap, a concern to area employers, is a situation where manufacturers are seeking skilled workers, at a time of unemployment. This provides an open job marketplace for students who gain the skills being sought by manufacturers. At Gateway, we offer training for these hot careers in information technology, computer numerical control machine operators, welding and industrial maintenance technician.

In addition to degree and diploma programs, Gateway's boot camps help dislocated and underemployed workers, as well as prepare high-schoolers, by putting them through a rigorous program which trains them to be welders, CNC operators, and industrial maintenance technicians - key skilled worker areas of need. The innovative, flexible program was developed with the Racine County Workforce Development Center.

Companies also partner with Gateway to ensure future workers receive realistic training and on equipment used in the industry today. Snap-on has been a strong partner for us over the years in this regard, and, most recently, we held a ribbon-cutting for an energy lab on our Kenosha Campus fueled by collaboration with Trane and other area companies.

We're here to put people back to work or make current workers even more valuable to their employers.

Energy labs opened to provide leading-edge HVAC training

Gateway Technical College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for six energy systems labs which bring cutting-edge training technology. These labs will equip Gateway graduates

For more

For more information, go to www.gtc.edu/eeet, or www.gtc.edu/good-news/eeet

with the skills needed to enter an expanding job market for well-versed technicians with sustainable energy system skills. The college also hosted a 100th anniversary celebration for Trane Corporation, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and solutions and a brand of Ingersoll Rand. Trane is a key partner in the development of the labs and the curriculum taught there.

The labs include equipment in building automation, refrigeration, renewable energy systems and geexchange technology.

Program graduates who've trained in the labs have the ability to run HVAC systems and equipment that make buildings and equipment "greener" using leading-edge technology. They are also prepared for specific green collar careers in wind and solar.

"This is significant for the college," said Gateway President Bryan Albrecht. "We see employers in these job markets calling for technicians with skills that go beyond HVAC. Employers are looking for skills in operating those systems in a sustainable manner."



Gateway's Workforce and Economic Development Division's Fab Lab provides entrepreneurs with the resources to take an idea from concept to prototype, made possible by computerized CNC machinery in Tarnowski Hall.

Gateway services help area businesses succeed

From startups to existing businesses, WEDD meets needs of area

Brian Buchman started Buchman Insurance in April 2012 and, a year later, sought training that would help him operate his business more efficiently.

Buchman participated in a GrowthWheel™ seminar delivered by Therese Fellner, executive director of strategic initiatives for Gateway Technical College's Workforce and Economic Development Division. The program has helped him better see the potential of his business by realizing his successes - as well as pinpointing those areas which he can address in the future to even greater success.

"It made me look at the business and forced me to step out and do those things I am not that comfortable with - but need to do because I am the only one here at the business," he says. "I realized some of those components I need to have to be successful."

The owner of the Waterford business says the opportunity to engage in the GrowthWheel

process is something that many businesses should consider using, especially entrepreneurs and newer business owners. He's worked with Kate Walker, Gateway's director of Business Services, who has "helped me to come out of my shell."

"I absolutely see the benefit for a new business. Being on my own and this being my first year, this has helped me greatly. I feel more should take advantage of this service. It shows you what you're doing well, opens your eyes to those areas you can improve on and you are working with someone who knows what you are facing and how to help. They work face-to-face with you."

WEDD offers many services to area entrepreneurs and business owners.

GrowthWheel* is a decision-making tool offered to start-up and growth companies as well as students and non-profit and community organizations. Gateway's certified advisors use a structured approach to help clients focus and make business decisions which lead to action and help them to track their progress. Participants leave with action steps and a renewed sense of focus and organizational priorities.

Gateway's Industrial Design Fab Lab serves as a regional hub where businesses, entrepreneurs and Gateway students can access a variety of equipment and resources taking them from concept, to prototype, to fin-

ished product all in one place. The Fab Lab will help develop a talent pipeline where ideas will be brought to life and will develop new regional employment opportunities. The Fab Lab encourages students in kindergarten through 12th grade to explore technical and STEM careers through camps and programs and encourages entrepreneurial ideas.

This fall the WEDD will offer a **patent workshop series, a rapid innovation and growth seminar** and Fab Lab orientation sessions for students, businesses and entrepreneurs. Gateway students also are invited to join the new Enactus Club that is scheduled to begin this fall. This club has an entrepreneurial focus.

The WEDD division provides access to resources and facilitation such as video conferencing, and partnerships such as Eiger Labs for large scale rapid prototyping, the Wisconsin Business Incubation Association, SCORE and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation as well as local Economic Development organizations.

* GrowthWheel funding was made possible under award 06-79-05547 from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce."

Boot camps help unemployed gain skills to new career, new life

Shanta Harris, Racine, called Gateway's computer numerical control machine boot camp training a life-changing experience, providing him with the opportunities to gain skills and leadership to a new and growing career field and ability to forge his own future.

"I have something now I know I will have the rest of my life - I have the skills to a new career," Shanta said a week prior to completing the camp. "I'm about to be married, go to church, provide for my kids. I'm about to live the American dream."

What does Shanta think a year later? He's living the dream. He's landed a job at a Kenosha manufacturer as a CNC operator, has taken additional Gateway courses and worked as a lab assistant in the boot camp program, helping students learn and encouraging them to succeed.

"I love my job," says Shanta. "This is an industry where technology changes every year, and you never stop learning. I like that."

Shanta initially sought to upgrade his pay and career possibilities from his former factory job when he spoke to some of his friends about the CNC boot camp program. "They all told me it changed their life for the better," he says. "I wanted to be a part of that. And it has been that for me - this program has been a positive influence on my life."

Gateway and the Racine County Workforce Economic Development Corporation offer the innovative boot camps in a number of in-demand careers, including welding fabrication, CNC, industrial maintenance and certified nursing assistant. They assist dislocated and underemployed workers by putting them



Shanta Harris turned to an innovative Gateway program to gain the skills for a solid career.

"I'm about to live the American dream."

- Shanta Harris

For more

■ Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asj9i_hDIVY

through a rigorous program which trains them to enter a number of industries. They can also apply Gateway credits earned during the camp toward an associate degree or technical diploma.

Recently, the boot camps have included certified nursing assistant training as well as a high school CNC operator boot camp. It features area high school seniors, who will take courses beginning in July, work an internship

in Spring 2014. Students will have the skills to enter the industry upon graduation, or continue on with Gateway courses in the CNC one-year degree program.

"I took this because I thought it would be cool to work with metal and it offers a great career opportunity," said high-schooler Andrew Christian, of Racine. "It feels good to know you are set with your career."

Gateway workshop helps students begin education and career

A new Gateway session will provide assistance to any student considering their future college and work career.

Get Ready is for those considering their career and educational options, but who would like some guidance as to the first step they should take.

Get Set is for those who know they want to attend Gateway and know what program they wish to apply to - but would like some assistance in the admissions steps at Gateway.

The Get Ready workshops are intended for anyone considering Gateway as their college of choice. These workshops will provide an

overview of Gateway, its program offerings, college admissions process and payment options, including steps to apply for financial aid. This program would be for those considering Gateway but looking to learn more about the college and how to get started.

The Get Set workshops provide participants with the guidance to complete their Gateway admissions paperwork, financial aid application and placement assessment. Staff members will be on hand to provide guidance to those who participate.

These sessions are for those who already know the program in which they would like

Registration is required, and can be done by contacting the Student Services Contact Center at (800) 247-7122, at sscontactcenter@gtc.edu or at any campus student services center.

to apply, but are seeking guidance on how to complete the admissions steps and apply for financial aid. Participants also will complete their placement assessment - a key component to being admitted to a program and being able to register for courses.

IN BRIEF



Gateway's new mascot took flight over the summer

Gateway Board of Trustee members approved a new mascot for the college, the Red Hawks.

The new mascot is the first for Gateway in memory and will be used to symbolize the college to its communities and through its students who take part in academic and career-related competitions throughout the state and nation.

The Red Hawk, called Rudy, is patterned after the red-tailed hawks seen at each of Gateway's three main campuses, in Kenosha, Racine and Elkhorn.

"Red-tailed hawks are noted for soaring high above the landscape, symbolic of the dedication and commitment Gateway students have in their pursuit of academic excellence," says Gateway President Bryan Albrecht.

Rudy the Red Hawk gear and related items will be rolled out during the Fall 2013 semester.

Gateway swears in board members

Bethany Ormseth, Kenosha; William Duncan, Walworth; and Sheila Webber, Burlington, were sworn in as the newest members of the Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees.



Bethany Ormseth



William Duncan



Sheila Webber

All three are new members to the board. They were appointed to three-year terms to run from 2013-16.

The three were selected by an appointment committee made up of chairpersons - or their designees - of the Kenosha County, Racine County, and Walworth County boards of supervisors.

Board members also selected their leadership team for the coming year. Ram Bhatia was selected as chairperson of the board, Gary Olsen as vice chairperson, Pamela Zenner-Richards as secretary and Neville Simpson as treasurer.

Gateway recognized on national certified manufacturing worker talent list

Manufacturing Institute officials have announced that Gateway Technical College is a charter member of the M-List, which recognizes schools that prepare workers to the level of industry standards in advanced manufacturing.

Gateway is the only charter member in Wisconsin to receive this honor.

The institute says colleges on the list "have arranged their coursework around industry standards, and they make sure students earn credentials that are in the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System."

"With such a trusted standard, it takes the guesswork out of hiring welders, machinists, production workers and other key positions that make manufacturing hum," the institute concluded.

The M-List represents national institutions recognized as "Manufacturers Endorsed." These institutions include community colleges, technical schools, high schools, four-year colleges and universities that deliver high-quality manufacturing training programs. The measure of quality is set by the manufacturing industry.

The Manufacturing Institute is a Washington, DC-based organization dedicated to improving and expanding manufacturing in the United States. It is affiliated with the National Association of Manufacturers.



Gateway programs and services helped Viola Howell, right, handle family, money and course tutoring issues. She's entered a health career field, has seen advancement and has many more opportunities after passing her nursing exam on the first try.

Student resource program helps students to finish education, enter workforce

Viola Howell was struggling to continue her Gateway education, finding ways to raise her children, maintain a full-time job and keep up her grades.

She sought help at Gateway - and found it. Assisted by the Health Profession Opportunity Program, Viola graduated in Spring 2013 from the college's Nursing program - but actually entered the health care field before graduating. The skills she gained at Gateway provided her the framework to help her pass the state nursing board exam by July - on her first try - as well as enter the health care field prior to graduation.

Viola has a bright future as a registered nurse ahead of her.

"I was struggling, but was able to find success after joining the program," says Viola. "They helped me with my children, my transportation and with my courses. I was able to reduce the stress on the other things in my life. The assistance helped me to focus on my classes and my program - I've grown professionally and academically."

HPOP, which operates on a federal grant, helped Viola in many ways. In addition to helping pay for child care and transportation, it assisted her also to connect with tutoring and focus on her coursework. It helped connect her with her current job in the health care field as well as resumé and other professional networking skills.

"I wanted to know I could get to class, make sure my children

We help you where you're at - through student support programs

Gateway helps students to be successful in their education in a number of ways. One way is through a number of student support programs. Whether it's tutoring, financial assistance or helping you to be successful in the classroom after many years away from it, Gateway is here to help.

www.gtc.edu/support-services

were OK and that I could access tutoring help if I needed it," says Viola. "I received all that, and more, at Gateway."

The HPOP program is one of several available to Gateway students to help them in their educational journey. It has been met with great success, with several of the participants finding employment upon graduation and moving up the career ladder - many times, even prior to graduation, such as with Viola.

Gateway strives to meet the needs of students to ensure their success, whatever those needs may be, tailoring the programs and services to do so.

Seeking a job? Seeking to upgrade your skills?

Come to Gateway!



Need a job? Need an upgrade on your current job? Come to Gateway Technical College.

More than eight in 10 Gateway graduates have gained employment within six months of graduating from the college, earning an average hourly wage of \$16.69, a recent survey indicates.

A total of 1,887 Gateway associate degree and technical diploma graduates responded

to the 2012 Graduate Followup survey and 97 percent said they were satisfied with their Gateway training. A total of 85 percent had jobs within six months of graduation and 57 percent in a program-related field. About 20 percent indicated they were not employed because they were students continuing their educational training.

Three in four of those Gateway graduates

entering the workforce did so in the three-county college district of Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties. A total of 37 percent said they chose to attend Gateway to prepare for getting a job, 27 percent said they wanted to prepare for continuing education, 22 percent were seeking a career change and 8 percent wanted to upgrade their current job skills.

- Visit career labs
- Enrollment assistance
- Music, fun & food

3-7 P.M.

Tuesday, August 6 - Kenosha Campus
 Wednesday, August 7 - Elkhorn Campus
 Thursday, August 8 - Racine Campus

www.gtc.edu/OpenHouse



OPEN HOUSE

Grad uses Gateway to gain skills to return to industry she loves

Cyrene Olson was in a good-paying job in a profession she liked, had worked in for years and could see herself doing the rest of her life.

Technology and the soft economy got in the way of that dream, though. She was laid off, but still wanted to return to the printing industry - and training and technology at Gateway Technical College brought her "back into the game" at a wage level and future that could be even better than before.

"This will put me back into the job market where I need to be," says Cyrene, who completes her Graphic Communications associate degree this summer. "I am a single mother, and I am not a young person any more. I will return to the industry at the same wage level as before the jobs started disappearing.

"If I hadn't earned my degree at Gateway, I would probably have had to work a basic job at a much lower salary. I won't have to worry about that now."

Cyrene now works as a private contract graphics designer for a national beauty products company, working from her home most days but also going to the Mukwonago-based business as needed. "Employers are looking to see that you have education - if not, your application is going to the bottom of the pile," she says.

Cyrene worked in the printing industry in pre-press, making a good wage. The job market began dropping out on that aspect of the industry in the late 1990s as printers turned more and more to technology and digital pre-press operations. Cyrene didn't have experience on the new equipment and, despite hanging on as long as she could, found herself laid off as her job was elim-

For more

■ For more information, go to www.gtc.edu/good-news/graphic-communications

inated.

"I decided I needed to go to Gateway to get the skills I needed to put me back into the game," says Cyrene.

Cyrene says one of the strengths of the program is its industry-savvy instructors.

"The instructors are so knowledgeable about the industry. They didn't just go to college and then start teaching.

They've actually been in the industry - and many still are today. They are pulling for the students and they do their best to help you."

The need for hands-on training in today's newest technology also weighed into Cyrene's decision to attend Gateway. She said the college delivered those two factors strongly.

"This is truly a technical college - they teach you what's in the real world," says Cyrene.

A final benefit to students is the connections fostered between industry and the college, in the classroom and otherwise. Specifically, the annual graphics design show put on by the college, and attended by area members of the community and industry officials, helped her to land her current position before she even graduated.

Cyrene will return to Gateway in Fall 2013 to earn two, specific, certificates she believes will make her even more marketable in today's world, in Web design as well as social media. "Being able to work with the Web and social media is so very important - these certificates will complement the degree and training I already have," she says.



Her job may have been eliminated because of technology, but that didn't mean Cyrene Olson was done with the printing industry. She returned to Gateway to earn her Graphic Communications degree and has returned "back in the game" at a salary similar to the one she left.

EXPANDING SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Full-time equipment technician puts two IT degrees to work

Mike Dunning has a good job and in a career he likes. He wanted to increase his skills, though, to further cement his position at his employer - as well as ensure he would possess the skills to find work elsewhere in case of a layoff during unsure economic times.

He turned to Gateway to obtain both. Mike gained the skills to make him a more proficient computer instrument technician at his current job as well as keeping up-to-date in the constantly changing information technology industry.

"After you take the course, you can take the standardized test to be industry certified - that's huge for a lot of the students."

- Mike Dunning

For more

■ For more information, go to www.gtc.edu/good-news/it, or www.gtc.edu/it-network-specialist

he says. "Gateway helped me to be a specialist."

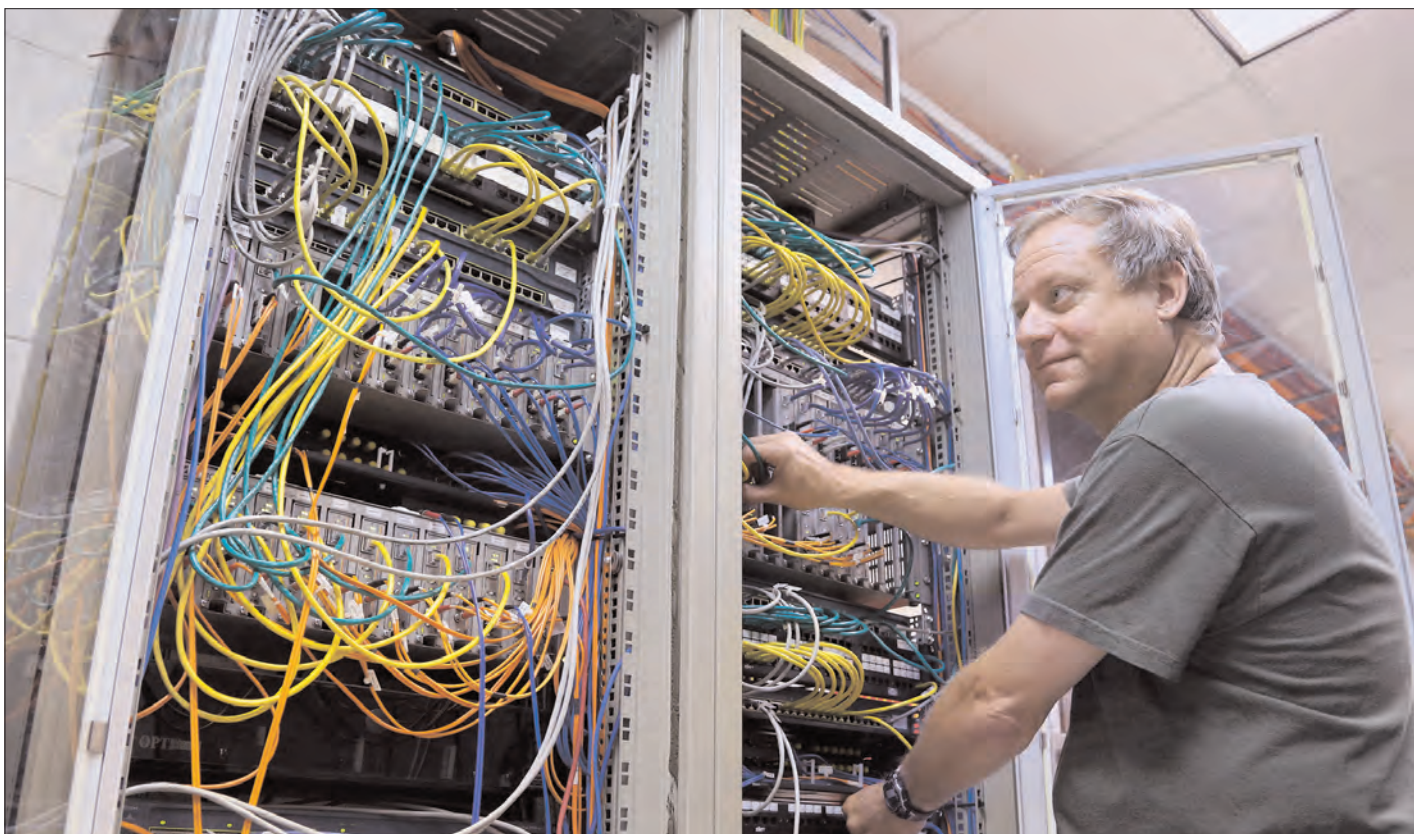
Mike has worked for his current employer for 25 years and risen through the ranks to his current position of being a power plant computer instrument technician. For years, he had pondered increasing his knowledge of the equipment on which he worked. He finally decided to move forward, in part, because of the unstable economy.

"I wanted to continue my education and

"My Gateway degree gave me the confidence and ability to do my job even better," says Mike. "I know I can take on those added responsibilities and work on different processes and equipment now, which I would not have been able to do in the past."

Mike earned two Gateway Information Technology degrees, an associate degree in Computer Support Specialist in 2010, followed by a Network Specialist degree in 2013. "I think in today's world, everyone needs to be a specialist in their career,"

Mike worked his full-time job the entire time he took classes at Gateway, many times applying the skills he'd learned in the classroom directly at the job. He increased his knowledge and skills of operating systems, setting up and operating computers and troubleshooting.



Mike Dunning says Gateway training made him even more valuable to his employer through added skills and familiarity with modern IT equipment and programs.

increase my marketable skills. Even though there's no indication that I will face a layoff, no one really knows what will happen, especially in today's economy. I wanted to improve my viability in the workforce."

Mike completed his first degree, IT-Computer Support Specialist, and realized several classes from the program applied to the IT-Network Specialist degree. He determined he could use the skills gained from the second degree, too - so he earned that one, as well.

Equipment he learned on and processes taught in the Gateway program also became keys to being able to apply immediately what he'd learned, Mike adds. Gateway students are trained to prepare for and take the exams for industry IT certifications, which many times are required by employers.

"After you take the course, you can take the standardized test to be industry certified - that's huge for a lot of the students," says Mike. "I already had a job, and it did help me in my current position. But for those who were looking to enter the workforce after graduation ... it was absolutely necessary to be able to get a job at many companies."

Gateway instructors are industry-savvy, which ensures that the skills taught are the ones

needed, not only for those seeking to enter the IT industry for the first time, but for incumbent workers like Mike.

"The instructors all really cared about your success," says Mike. "They went out of their way to work around your schedule, and I was able to do some of the work online, which helped with my job situation."

One example Mike points to is computers that operate with a Linux system. He had little experience with Linux, but was required to learn it as part of his program, as well as being increasingly called to work on that system at his job. "Being able to learn more about it, and experience it with guidance from my instructors, put it in perspective for me - it was very pertinent to the job I was doing at the time," he says.

Create Your Future

Enroll now | Fall classes | September 3

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TECHNICAL COLLEGE
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