

# GOOD NEWS



Mom handles full-time job, workload through Accounting On-Demand  
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Land surveyor broadens career with Gateway degree  
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*"This industry is where it's at – and Gateway is the place to be trained for this profession."*  
– Tony Paura

## Gray economy prompts student to seek greener career

*Former business owner says the ground's the limit for geoeexchange technology*

Tony Paura enrolled at Gateway Technical College to reap the benefits of both worlds – hands-on training in an industry he's considered entering for years, as well as receiving instruction in a "green" career that's in its infancy but has the potential to expand.

Tony owned a construction company that had declined with the economy and was looking for a new career and direction in life. He saw an article about Gateway's geoeexchange technology instruction and says a light bulb went on.

"At this point in my life, I wanted a change," says Tony. "I wanted to do something different – and then I saw the article about this new technology and the training offered at Gateway."

He enrolled in the program and looks forward to earning a degree in Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology and its related geoeexchange training.

"Geoeexchange is the best of all worlds," says Tony. "It's a profession in which I can continue to learn and grow and it's a sustainable industry, too. I've always been interested in 'green' technology – wind, sun, earth – and it's an industry in which I may own my own business."

"This industry is where it's at – and Gateway is the place to be trained for this profession."

Gateway has begun growing the program which will provide training to equip students with the proper knowledge and expertise in geoeexchange technology and to drill for geoeexchange systems. There is a shortage of qualified geoeexchange drillers, and Gateway is the only site in the nation to offer training in this type of drilling.

Tony says he believes the technology and career has the potential to grow exponentially and wants to be in at the ground level of that career. Tony's enthusiasm for the technology and his background as a business owner prompted a state legislative panel to invite him to speak as a student on the importance of offering this type of training.

"I think that technology will move forward and geothermal will take off, and I want to be involved in that," says Tony. "It will take hold and I think it has the potential to create other jobs for those involved in making the equipment and all the trades related to installing a system into a house or business."

Tony is early in his Gateway career, but says it's been a positive experience because of the industry-savvy instructors, flexibility of classes, and the hands-on training.

"Gateway has been a great experience for me," says Tony. "The instructors are all top-notch and they have a lot to offer. They are seasoned veterans in their industry. They have a lot of knowledge, patience, and they really get behind their students. They want to see us succeed."

### For more information

✳ For more information on Gateway's "green" careers, go to [www.gtc.edu/greencareers](http://www.gtc.edu/greencareers).

✳ For more information on Gateway's Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology program, go to [www.gtc.edu/hvac](http://www.gtc.edu/hvac).

Gateway, in Summer 2009, landed a \$141,000 grant from the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education program to develop an expanded curriculum to train qualified technicians for the expanding geoeexchange industry. That curriculum should be ready to implement and share with colleges nationwide by summer 2010.



## Groups provide student life opportunities

*Gateway groups offer students peek into future career, ways to connect with others*

Gateway's mission of offering students a realistic and hands-on look into their career field extends far beyond the classroom – through its many student activities groups and student professional organizations.

Shannon Molina joined a Gateway Technical College student professional group to connect with other students and as a way to give back to the community.

What she's experiencing is a lot of fun but also a lot of business – an opportunity to reach out to others and experience a little bit of her Human Services career before she graduates.

"I feel like I am part of something," Shannon says. "Gateway offers a lot of student life opportunities, and a student club is one of those opportunities. Being involved in the club gets you more involved in college life."

Shannon, a member of the HOSA/Human Services Club on the Racine Campus, says she worked in customer service for 10 years before enrolling at Gateway.

"I am looking forward to working on the club events," she says.

Each group tailors its activities to the specific student area they represent. Advisers say students who participate in Gateway student clubs will benefit in many ways.

### Community service, college fun

Human Services Club adviser Gina Stoebe said she hopes club members will engage in community service projects. The club organizes events such as food drives, a community dance for the developmentally disabled, and a day set aside to link community service providers with those who would need those services.

"We are looking for different ways we can help the community," says Stoebe.

Kate Field, adviser for the Alpha Beta Hortus student horticulture group on the Kenosha Campus, says the group takes part in such activities as a campus plant sale, bus trips to horticulture-related events, and reaches out to the community through class presentations at local schools.

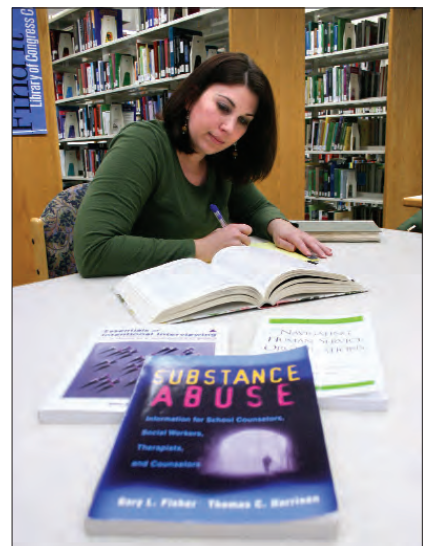
### Learning leadership

Kate says students gain leadership, teamwork and planning skills and connect with professionals in the field.

"It's a great way to make friends, too," says Kate. "They are college friends now – but they become professional colleagues later on. There is such a short time for them to connect during class, the clubs offer them a great opportunity."

"It also gives me a chance to get to know them, too, and I know what they are capable of. When professionals ask me if I have any recommended students for jobs, I often provide names of students from the club."

Charis Mitchell, a member of the horticulture club says the club gives students an opportunity to mix the



Shannon Molina is a member of the HOSA/Human Services Club on the Racine Campus.



Charis Mitchell is a member of the horticulture club.

### Student groups

✳ Gateway offers a number of student groups with some located on each of its four campuses, including the Student Nurses Association, Kosmetique (for Barber/Cosmetology students), the Association of Information Technology Professionals, the Gateway Gazette, Gateway Marketing and Management Association and Sigma Alpha Pi. For more information, go to [www.gtc.edu/clubs](http://www.gtc.edu/clubs).

professional with the fun.

Says Charis: "We are not that big of a group, so if you are involved, you will have those leadership opportunities that you don't always get in class. The field of horticulture is huge, so we try to experience other aspects of it, through field trips and lectures."

"Gateway has students of all ages and backgrounds, so we are able to learn from each other. We also have networking possibilities -- they may have connections that you don't have, and vice versa."

Paul Nelson, adviser for the G-CPU information technology student group on the Elkhorn Campus, says the club provides students with the

ability to begin to network and to reach out to the community through a used computer sale. Some even use the opportunity to hone their business acumen for their home-based freelance businesses.

### Career skills

"We tour companies, which helps them to get a feel for what their career will be like once they graduate from Gateway," says Paul. "Students involved in the club become friends that last well beyond the years they are at Gateway."

Some groups provide students the opportunity to hone their career skills through competing against others in state and even national competitions.

Student Anna Konkel competed in the Business Professionals of America competition last year through the Elkhorn BPA student group and is president of the statewide group this year, which will hold its competition on the Elkhorn Campus for the second straight year.

She says she was able to learn professional as well as study skills. "Competing has helped make me more outgoing and taken away all the fears I have had of delivering a speech."

*"Gateway offers a lot of student life opportunities, and a student club is one of those opportunities. Being involved in the club gets you more involved in college life."* – Shannon Molina, student



# Training at Gateway gives technician well-rounded skills

“I tell them that Gateway can offer a great beginning for anyone on their road to success.”

## Gateway a great foundation for career, engineering graduate says

Walter Edwards says Gateway’s strong career training, resources and programming options helped lay a strong foundation for his career as a GE Healthcare service engineer.

“Gateway allowed me to be that well-rounded technician,” he said. “They offered a lot of opportunities for me to receive training through their many different programs.”

“I had some great success when I first started attending Gateway back in the 90s. At the time, I was noticing layoffs at area companies, and I realized those technicians were really good at just one area. I realized I needed to be a well-rounded technician to make myself more marketable, and Gateway helped me to do that.”

In all, Edwards earned four associate degrees at Gateway, including Fluid Power Technology, Electrical Engineering, Electro-Magnetic Engineering, and Automatic Manufacturing Systems. Some of the credits he earned initially were used to help him earn degrees in other programs.

Walter later used transfer agreements forged between Gateway and the Milwaukee School of Engineering to earn his four-year degree there. His start at Gateway has also resulted in work toward a master’s degree which he hopes to finish soon.

Walter’s first contact with Gateway was when he earned his high school equivalency diploma through the college. Walter had been a strong student in high school but dropped out to work full-time.

“My counselor at Gateway was astounded at my high school grades and asked me why I left. I told her I left to work full-time. She encouraged me to go on to college, but I returned to working full-time.”

While he was working, he didn’t forget his first contact with Gateway. And when he did return, he was ready to begin his college career in earnest – and Gateway was able to provide him with the opportunity to earn his degree.

“That’s one of the strengths of Gateway.

**For more information**

- For more information on engineering technologies at Gateway, go to [www.gtc.edu/engtech](http://www.gtc.edu/engtech)



Gateway graduate Walter Edwards says the college gives students time to grow and helps them to build the foundation for success on their timetable.

The college gives students time to grow and to have those successes that will help them once they graduate. The college allows you the opportunity to build that foundation to your success on your timetable.”

Walter said Gateway’s instructors and realistic training prepared him well for the working world, offering him the opportuni-

ties to give him the edge over other applicants and a boost in his career. He speaks often to students and has served on Gateway committees, advising the college on program curriculum to make sure it aligns with real-world practice.

“Gateway allowed me the opportunity to realize I was capable of meeting any challenge set before me,” Edwards said.

### A word from the president



Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht

Many have turned to Gateway for training and education which will lead to a career that will get them back on track financially, so important in today’s soft economy.

Gateway has worked hard to meet increased demand by adding student resources and online and blended courses. Our goal is to remain flexible enough to meet the needs of workers upgrading their skills as well as dislocated workers training for a new career.

We’ve also worked to ensure we provide training in key areas that have strong potential to yield jobs and careers.

We have had great success in establishing business partnerships that lead to jobs.

We partnered with our three-county district workforce centers to ensure Gateway responded quickly and efficiently to the workforce needs in each county. We asked how the college could best help with training dislocated workers for a career change or advancement within their chosen career path. Kenosha County Job Center manager John Milisaukas, Walworth County Job Center manager Marilyn Putz and Racine County Workforce Development Center manager Alice Oliver and the staff members from each of those centers were part of a group striving to help get dislocated workers back on their feet.

The result has been Smart Career Restart programs, an innovative effort modeled after Gateway’s boot camp programs which quickly trains workers in four careers to re-enter the workforce with new or additional career skills. The flexibility and focus of the program to target key areas of perceived local industry demand and was paid for through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (RAAA) federal dollars.

Although its full impact will continue to be seen in the months to come, it certainly has been a success for the 50 individuals who have completed the program, have gained skills in a new career or added credentials or certifications in their current career. It’s the first step to their economic recovery and future.

The work done through the program certainly will not be our last. We will continue to work to reskill and train unemployed and underemployed workers to an in-demand career pathway that is beneficial to local communities, businesses, and workers alike.

# Land surveyor broadens his career with degree

## After years in the field, surveyor pursues degree through new Gateway program

Martin Ruiz already has 12 years in the land surveying business and works as a survey crew chief.

But he says a new two-year Gateway Technical College degree program will open new doors in his career that were unobtainable before -- and could recession-proof his future career.

The Racine resident says Gateway training will allow him the opportunity to become a professionally licensed surveyor, recognized by state and industry standards. Martin says that training and license will increase his earning potential by at least 20 percent and pave the way for career advancement.

It has the potential to impact Martin and his family for many years. “This is awesome. Gateway offers me the chance to obtain the training for my professional license while I

work, the college is located close to my home. I had the field experience but not the formal education. Now I can have that.”

Martin plans to earn his Land Survey Technician degree in Summer 2010, a new program in Gateway’s Engineering Construction Sciences group. He had begun taking courses in the Civil Engineering track when the Wisconsin State Technical College System approved Gateway’s Land Survey program as a two-year associate degree.

Martin works as a survey crew chief, staking out sewers, roads, water mains and surveying property. He works with a registered surveyor – something he’s hoping to be soon.

In addition to increasing his career possibilities, the program and obtaining his license will also help to keep his job and job



Martin Ruiz said Gateway offers him the ability to increase his career options by giving the land survey veteran the opportunity to earn his degree and obtain his official certification.

prospects stable even in a shifting economy.

“Two years ago, when the economy and housing hit bottom, I was laid off,” says Martin. “I was never laid off in 12 years. Luckily, I had made contacts in the industry and was able to land a job a few months later – but I knew I had to make myself more marketable.”

“I knew I had to add that land surveyor license to my resume. When I lost my job, I noticed there were openings – for registered land surveyors. I couldn’t get those jobs because I didn’t have my license. Getting my degree gives me a broader job outlook. There’s room for advancement at the compa-

**For more information**

- For more information on the Land Survey program, go to [www.gtc.edu/landsurvey](http://www.gtc.edu/landsurvey)

ny I am at now, too.”

Martin says Gateway offers him great, hands-on courses that mimic the real working world. And he ought to know – he’s working it every day.

“My instructors have even encouraged me to share what I know with the other students.”

# Gateway commercials resonate with potential students

## Elkhorn student brings in BMX bike to talk about student life

Elkhorn student brings in BMX bike to talk about student life

Royce Perez plans to graduate from Gateway in Spring 2010 and attend Arizona State University later that year to pursue his four-year degree. His Gateway story isn’t much of a secret – hundreds have been able to find out about the Graphic Design student through commercials presented in local theaters and online through the college’s YouTube connection.

Royce says strong Gateway instructors and real-world training, deadlines and attitude instilled through his coursework will help him land a job once he graduates – and give him an edge over his four-year classmates in Arizona.

The affable student talks about student life and Gateway’s excellent training as easily as he performs his BMX bike tricks for the commercial. He says the commercials and his message instantly resonated with fellow students who began asking him how he became involved as being a public face of Gateway.

“The response I’ve gotten from work and at the college has been great. I’ve had a lot of people coming up and asking me ‘were you the guy in the commercial?’”

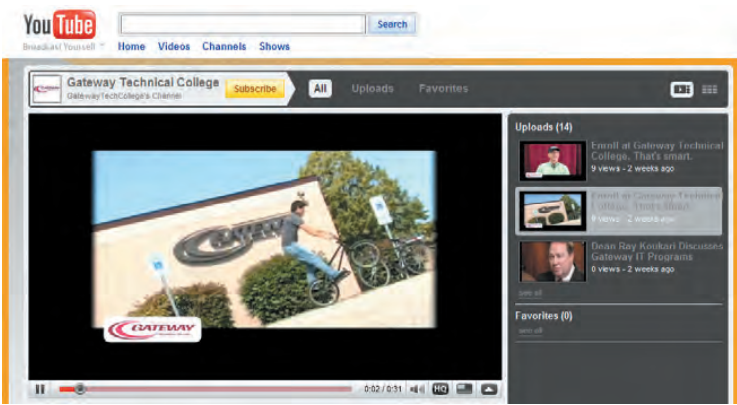
“I felt privileged to be offered the opportunity to be in a commercial that represents the college. Anyone could have been chosen, and it was me. Gateway has some great opportunities for students

**For more information**

- For more information on the graphic design program, go to [www.gtc.edu/graphicdesign](http://www.gtc.edu/graphicdesign)

and I wanted to show others what student life is like at the college.”

Royce was one of three students chosen to be filmed for the commercials, all from different backgrounds and ages – but representing a typical cross-section of Gateway students. In addition to Royce, Alex Warner enrolled in Gateway after being laid off from General Motors. He had already earned his fine arts degree, but was returning to Gateway for career training. Another, Amy



Klimek, hurt her hand in an accident and had to turn to another career.

Royce says he believes it’s great to connect with students through such means as commercials, YouTube and Facebook.

### See us online

- www.youtube.com/user/GatewayTechCollege#p/u/0/WmdRzAn7hzk
- www.youtube.com/user/GatewayTechCollege#p/u/1/3\_LJKilnEU



Gateway News Briefs



Students, staff, and community partners celebrate the opening of the welding lab.

Gateway holds open house at new welding lab

Gateway Technical College in Fall 2009 opened a new 9,000-square-foot welding lab featuring 18 booths, each with four different kinds of welding equipment. The lab area on the Racine Campus allows Gateway to deliver modern, practical welding training – the added space means more opportunity to train on larger fabrication projects.

Equipment to be used in training includes a state-of-the-art Accupress press brake, which allows students to bend metal for specific projects. Gateway will also have a new, 5-by-10-foot computer numeric control plasma cutting table with unlimited capabilities to cut any shapes. Students will have the opportunity to train on a wide variety of equipment which they will find in the workplace.

Windspire turbine continues Gateway's green commitment

In keeping with its environmental commitment, Gateway erected a vertical axis wind power appliance – a Mariah Power Windspire® on its Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation. The Windspire will be a learning tool for students, as well as a way for the college to reduce its purchase of electricity.



A Windspire turbine.

The 30-foot vertical wind turbine was erected to the north of the Sturtevant building. Instructors and students will use computer software to monitor the unit, which has applications in some Engineering programs, and will also serve as a test station for Gateway's wind torque program.

The turbine will generate an estimated 2,550 kilowatt hours annually, based on the prevailing wind speed for the region. The Windspire generates electricity with vertical airfoils which rotate around a center shaft. The vertical design allows it to operate silently in changing wind speeds and directions.

Gateway opens machine repair lab

Remodeled space on the Racine Campus will help provide workers with the skills to land jobs in a soft economy – and for companies to obtain workers to keep their manufacturing lean and productive.

Gateway will begin offering a two-year Industrial Mechanical Technician degree in Spring 2010 on the Racine Campus.

The program will be offered in a new, state-of-the-art lab which opened in Spring 2009. In the meantime, Gateway, in partnership with the Racine County Workforce Development Center, began holding Machine Repair Boot Camps in the lab to give unemployed and underemployed workers the skills to re-enter the workforce with a marketable skill in an in-demand career field.

The two-year associate degree program will train technicians on manufacturing equipment repair. These graduates will possess the skills to go into an industrial setting and repair equipment, from the large to the small and the basic to computer-operated pieces.

Health Careers Wing opens, provides opportunities to students

Students are benefiting from a newly remodeled and opened 6,600-square-foot Health Wing on the Elkhorn Campus. The upgrade was completed in time for the Fall 2009 semester. The upgrade is benefiting health careers students – and area communities – through equipment and other improvements that provide realistic, hands-on training.

The new lab area will give Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant and Community Pharmacy Technician students the ability to train in a real-world environment and the skills to be successful in their career.

The project is a result of a study group of Walworth County residents which recommended changes to programs and services needed for the region. The new training space will help train and equip graduates to deliver quality health care services. The need for additional training was highlighted in the study because of the increasing aging population.

HERO center to provide realistic training to EMS, fire professionals

Foundations for leaders, careers laid at the center

An addition to Gateway Technical College's Burlington Center will mean even more opportunities for students and working professionals to receive realistic, hands-on training in emergency services. Working firefighting professionals and EMS students and working professionals will benefit from the \$1.5 million, 12,000-square-foot addition to the facility. The project represents a partnership with the Burlington Area School District, Pierce Manufacturing Inc. and Medtec Ambulance Corporation.

The \$1.5 million facility named the Health and Emergency Responder Occupations – HERO – Center is expected to be completed by summer 2010 with courses offered shortly thereafter.

"Increased enrollment and changes in the type of training provided to today's firefighters and EMS professionals is driving this expansion," said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

"At the HERO Center, students and professionals will have access to real-life, scenario-based training, disaster simulation and technology-equipped classroom instruction."

The HERO Center will partner with Pierce Manufacturing, the leading manufacturer of custom fire apparatus, and Medtec Ambulance Corporation, a leading manufacturer of custom ambulances. Pierce, Medtec and Gateway will develop new training certificates to complement state and national training standards for firefighters and first responders in leadership and safety training.

Firefighting training

The major indoor training facility will provide the opportunity for firefighters from departments in the three-county Gateway Technical College District and beyond to experience specialized training on fire survival, firefighter escape, confined space rescue and other practical, hands-on instruction.

Because the HERO Center offers a controlled environment, instructors can run needed training multiple times without the disruptions that can occur when training is done on a freestanding abandoned structure, such as weather delays and the need to knock down the building after an initial round of firefighter training.



Artist rendering

New HERO Center

**Where:** 380 McCanna Pkwy., Burlington  
**Who:** Facility will offer cutting-edge training to EMS students and professional development opportunities to working firefighters and EMS professionals  
**When:** The center will be open for training by Summer 2010  
**Details:** The 12,000-square-foot-facility provides spaces and equipment to offer realistic training

The center will feature a two-bay fire station that will allow for Advanced Fire Company Officer Academy and Chief Officer Leadership Academy training. The center will benefit area firefighters by providing them with professional development opportunities and simulated situations that will help them hone leadership skills in the department and in an actual emergency.

"The HERO Center is a major indoor training facility which will allow us to provide that specialized training," said John Dahms, Gateway Firefighter Technician coordinator and lead instructor.

"The vision is to run the training as a virtual fire department to create leadership opportunities and training for company and chief officer training. It will provide students with a leadership academy atmosphere that will make them even better prepared to do their job."

EMS

The facility will also offer realistic training to EMS students and working professionals from across the district, says Gary Leyer, EMS lead instructor.

"State-of-the-art classrooms, enhanced audio visual capabilities, six breakout rooms and enlarged scenario rooms that can be converted to various living environments -- bathroom, bedroom, kitchen -- all will make the training done there even more realistic and focused," says Leyer.

Specific situations EMS professionals would encounter in their career can be simulated in one of the rooms, made even more realistic with use of METIman simulators. These units are computerized mannequin's which simulate different human traits including ability to talk, real pulses and breathing, bleeding and other conditions. Instructors can program in specific medical issues into the unit for students to train.

In addition to having an actual field ambulance now set up as a training environment for off-campus training, a second donated ambulance box will be used in the bay area of the new facility. With that, students will be able to simulate and train on the entire process of handling a patient in a simulated situation, taking them to the ambulance, working on them in the ambulance and then simulated taking them off the vehicle and into the hospital.

"There is a continuum of care we can simulate that we haven't been able to do before," says Gary. Instructors can even view the simulation from an observation booth and students can also log into a Web-based server to review their taped scenarios – all which further helps to provide quality training.

*"At the HERO Center, students and professionals will have access to real-life, scenario-based training, disaster simulation and technology-equipped classroom instruction."* – Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College president



EMS instructor Gary Leyer works with students Stephanie Lein and Denise Funk as they talk about the steps of a medical procedure, working with instructor Simon Miller. The new HERO Center will give students the opportunity to train in even more realistic scenarios than can be currently offered, as well as the ability to practice on METIman simulator, a computerized mannequin which simulates different human traits and medical issues.

Center to boost Gateway's reputation for quality instruction

Student, instructor says hands-on practice scenarios will lead to success

Dave Fladten has dealt with many emergencies as an officer with the Walworth County Sheriff's Department, taught a number of students over the past 30 years as a Gateway adjunct EMS instructor and, most recently, faced instructors himself as a student in an advanced Gateway training program.

He sees EMS instruction from many different perspectives – so when he says the new Gateway HERO Center in Burlington is exactly what's needed to train and equip EMS students to function at a high level in their career, he knows what he's talking about.

Dave says the new facility will provide opportunities for realistic and hands-on training that will mimic real-life scenarios EMS professionals see on their job every day – and some they many only see a few times in their career.

"The realistic training that will be available in this center is so crucial for training EMS professionals," says Dave. "When you can provide instruction to students in a simulated setting they would see in their career, that makes the training even more valuable."

"We can set up different scenarios in the HERO Center for them to work with. They won't have to picture themselves being in a living room, or a bathroom, handling a situation – they will be training in a simulated setting that makes it real to them."

*"The realistic training that will be available in this center is so crucial for training EMS professionals."*

– Dave Fladten

The realism and hands-on approach are what Dave likes as an instructor – as well as when as a student.

"Practice makes perfect – and the more repetitions, the better you will understand and be able to succeed with it in your career," says Dave. "The HERO Center will allow a student hands-on practice to help them succeed."

The center will boost a Gateway EMS program that's already highly regarded among professionals from across the state, he says.

"I've attended schools across the state and country and Gateway has always been regarded as a leader in EMS and fire science training," says Dave. "This move continues to keep Gateway on the forefront of that training."



# Addition will provide opportunities for diesel training

An addition to the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology will provide opportunities for students and industry workers to train on the latest in diesel technology as well as equipment focused on sustainable transportation industries.

Gateway broke ground in August on its 12,800-square-foot Advanced Propulsion Training addition to the north side of the nationally-acclaimed Horizon Center in Kenosha. The addition puts Gateway's position at the cutting edge of the transportation

## For more information

• [www.gtc.edu/diesel](http://www.gtc.edu/diesel)

industry in South-eastern Wisconsin at an even higher level. The training done there will provide qualified technicians for the advanced diesel industry. Alternative fuel concepts will also be explored by students.

The building is expected to be completed in January and opened for diesel courses by the Fall 2010 semester.

"This is a field that will continue to grow – and will continue to require trained technicians," said Dave Clarbour, Gateway lead diesel technology instructor. "The new facility will give students the ability to train on the newest diesel diagnostic tools as well as being on the ground level of learning about advancements in alternative fuels."

The facility will house courses for the college's Diesel Technology programs, diesel diagnostics certification industry workshops and torque training for the wind industry.

The addition positions Gateway and students who graduate from the program well to meet a growing need for diesel technicians over a wide range of applications, from tractor-trailers to farm, earth-moving and emergency equipment.

Gateway students will have the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to address technological transportation changes as well as the diagnostic equipment that goes along with them. The facility is supported in part by Snap-on Incorporated.

*"I think working as a diesel technician is a career that's always going to be there."* – Ben Kerr



Ben Kerr, a Gateway student and Burlington resident, is looking forward to the addition of a Diesel Technology program at Gateway's Horizon Center for Transportation Technology.

## Student excited about possibilities of diesel addition

### New technology, strong instructors help train students well for career

Ben Kerr, with Gateway automotive training already under his belt, is looking forward to the addition of a Diesel Technology program at Gateway's Horizon Center for Transportation Technology. Kerr began training at the Horizon Center while still in high school and is pleased to have access to this cutting-edge training and equipment so close to home.

Kerr has taken some of the Diesel Technology certificate courses offered now but looks forward to enrolling in the two-year diesel program to begin next year.

Kerr began working on diesel tractor engines on a farm near his home. While he has finished most of his Automotive Technology associate degree courses at Gateway and will begin taking his general education courses in Spring 2010, he's looking forward to pursuing an associate degree in Diesel Technology.

"I do like working on the automotive side, but I prefer diesel and will want to take those courses now that they're offered here," Ben says.

"I think working as a diesel technician is a career that's always going to be there. You will always have big trucks, construction vehicles, tractors. You won't have to worry about this career going away."

Ben says the added space and state-of-the-art equipment in the Advanced Propulsion addition will provide students with leading-edge skills to support career entry.

"You will be able to see and train on what's new in the industry, and be well-versed in how to use that equipment once you graduate and are in the field," says Ben.

Ben was with the first group of high-schoolers to enroll in Gateway Automotive Technology courses held at the Horizon Center. He has remained with the program and says industry-savvy instructors are the foundation for its excellence. "They know what they are talking about – if you have a question, they have an answer for you."

He says the affordable cost and nearness to his home also factored in his decision to attend Gateway. He adds that the diesel addition and new program will keep him here for another degree.

"If Gateway wouldn't have offered diesel, I would have traveled somewhere else to get that educational training," says Ben. "When I found out it would be here, that was excellent news."

# Accounting On-Demand remedy for full-time mom with a full-time job

## Flexible options and online format allow student path to career

Alma Solorio says the scheduling and coursework flexibility of Accounting On-Demand has allowed her, as a full-time mother with a full-time job, to earn her degree – something that otherwise would have been out of reach.

The Rock County mother of two children under the age of 5 holds down a full-time second-shift job and takes her courses the only time she can -- in the late evening and early morning hours and whenever else she can fit it in, making Gateway her 24-hour college.

Gateway's online program and accounting instructors provide Alma with the training needed to successfully enter her career in accounting and a boost of self-confidence that will help her to tackle any issue.

"Gateway has given me everything," says Alma. "I now have the confidence and feel I am prepared to do whatever's asked of me in my career. I am starting a new beginning in my life."

Alma says the On-Demand format greatly benefits single and working mothers who have no time during the day or early evening to go to an on-campus class, but are still seeking ways to earn their degree.

The program provides some students the ability to earn a degree when they otherwise would have been unable to do so because of its flexibility and ability to start courses outside the traditional semester start dates.

"If it weren't for On-Demand Accounting and online programs, there would be no opportunities for us mothers who work full time to go to college," says Alma. "I always wanted a career – I didn't realize until Gateway that there were programs flexible enough for those of us with such tight schedules."

Alma says the online accounting instructors work hard to answer e-mail questions and concerns quickly and use many different methods to make sure their students comprehend the material. She says the online format may have

## For more information

• [www.gtc.edu/accounting](http://www.gtc.edu/accounting)

• <http://weblogmu.gtc.edu/ondemandaccounting/>

made her a stronger student because she's remained steadfast in making sure to work every day and read the material well enough to succeed.

"I really like the flexibility of it

because it allowed me more time to study and really understand the material. I really think doing it online gave me even more self-confidence in what I'm doing."

While Alma did take a few classes on the Elkhorn Campus, her day-time demands will cause her to continue to take all online courses until she graduates in Spring 2010.

Alma says she was far from confident in her accounting abilities when she began the program. But she was 25 and felt she was going nowhere with her life's work – so she forged ahead in accounting, an area where she sees

great career potential.

"People tried to discourage me from going. They said 'you don't have enough time' or 'what are you going to do about your kids and your job?'"

"I said to myself, I can make it work with the online classes. And it worked out great."

"My work schedule doesn't allow me to really take classes on the campus, but I take the online classes – I fit them into my schedule when I can. I have a real tight schedule, and On Demand works great for me."

Alma says the Gateway degree is the starting point of a career and an education.

"This is the start of something big."



Alma Solorio looks up some online information while her daughter, Ariana, sits on her lap. Alma says the flexibility of Accounting On-Demand allows her to be a full-time mom, hold down a full-time job and earn her degree. She says she would have been unable to earn a degree and start her career without the Gateway program.

## What is On-Demand Accounting?

Gateway Technical College's On-Demand Accounting program allows students to choose from any of 36 different start dates in a year for any On-Demand classes. Students have 15 weeks to complete a class but can complete them early if they wish to and either start another right away or take some time off.

There are many who benefit from the On-Demand format including stay-at-home moms, members of the military or those with full-time jobs looking to take online courses who can't attend traditional courses on campus.

Commuters are also excellent candidates for on-line/On-Demand. The audio and video lectures can be downloaded to an IPOD, PSP or laptop and the student can listen/watch them whenever and wherever they choose. Those who take the train or carpool can work on assignments as they travel or during work breaks.

Career information and class schedules available online at [www.gtc.edu](http://www.gtc.edu) or call 1 (800) 247-7122.

**Enroll now.**

**Classes begin January 20.**

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