

GOOD NEWS



Gateway degree makes grad smile – and helps others, as well

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Program serves up successful career training for Culinary grad

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Memo "Jose" Lopez says he benefited from Gateway's flexible scheduling, its nearness to his home and the openness by instructors to go the extra mile to answer any and all questions posed by students.

Gateway helps grad enter career he's always considered

Instructors go extra mile to make sure students understand, he says

As an iron worker, Memo "Jose" Lopez constructed buildings for a living. As a Gateway Technical College Architectural-Structural Engineering Technician graduate, Memo now helps design them.

He left a job working with iron because he felt it was too dangerous, and worried about the potential impact it could have on him and his family if something went wrong.

The skills he gained at Gateway allowed Memo to enter the career he has thought about since as long as he can remember, and he rejoices in the full and positive impact its had on himself and his family.

"Gateway training has impacted my life, my kids and my career," he says. "I love my job, I love my employer and it's a stable job.

"My kids are still in school and they are proud of me. They tell people that their dad is a college graduate and he works in an architectural career. It's a very positive thing that Gateway has done for me - they provided me with the education and a course to follow to be successful."

Memo says he's always wanted to work in the architectural field since he was a child. His favorite activity was to draw buildings - and even a map of the town.

He remembered that as he pondered his career shift. "I love my family - I told my wife it was just getting too crazy for me," he says. "We got tied up with some bills, and I said 'I have to go back to school to get an education. I need a better education to be involved in the architectural field.'

"I knew money would be tight for a while, but a Gateway education would pay off in the end - and it's already doing that," he says.

Memo benefited from Gateway's flexible scheduling, its nearness to his home and the willingness of instructors to go the extra mile to answer any and all questions posed by students. Flexible and open computer labs at the college also allowed him to complete his assignments.

His brother, an architect, also encouraged him to attend Gateway because it would give Jose the foundation for a career, or to move on to other positions in the field.

Memo says he uses skills learned at Gateway every day. Some skills he gained at Gateway - which are required at his workplace - aren't even taught at area four-year colleges.

"Because of what I was taught at Gateway, I was able to understand some specific software programs," he says. "Without that, I wouldn't be able to do what I do now."

Memo says Gateway also encouraged students to gain the soft skills before they entered the workforce, such as collaborating and working well with others.

"They have patience at Gateway and they give you the opportunities to succeed," says Memo.

WELL TRAINED, READY TO WORK

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

Health care program

"That's the biggest advantage, I think - many have been through our doors through those clinical (experiences), and know how our business operates, and we know them."

– Mike Becker, senior human resources representative, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

Horticulture program

"The graduates were well-taught for the career field."

– Steve Martin, owner of Aspen Property

Graphic Communications program

"... we also need the creativity that Gateway graduates bring."

– Ed Kist, sales support and marketing manager, LinMot

Gateway grads gain accolades from employers

Bob Moss, shop foreman at W.M. Sprinkman Corp., believes in hiring well-trained workers for positions at his company.

Many times, he looks to Gateway for well-trained welding graduates for those open positions – in fact, more than 50 percent of his workforce has received training at the college. He says the college delivers the training, and the graduates possess the skill, for what he seeks in his workforce.

"They already have the knowledge of the cutting and measuring and welding processes," says Bob. "They know the process and the machines. That basic knowledge shrinks the learning curve and I can then focus on getting them to understand what it takes for us to manufacture quality equipment for the dairy, food processing and beverage industries."

Bob says it's important for employees in his workforce to be trained, such as those from Gateway. "Many of the Gateway graduates have good hand-eye coordination and they know what a good weld looks like. The high quality welding and custom fabrication work we do here is very difficult. I want them to be welders first, and then they are better positioned to learn the specialty welding once they are here."

Bob says even if the graduate doesn't have the specific weld training needed for a position, he still likes to hire Gateway graduates. "One of the things I see in many Gateway graduates is drive. They seem motivated to better themselves, are always trying to learn and they're willing to work, which adds up to a perfect candidate for W. M. Sprinkman."

Bob himself is a Gateway graduate and says the training he received was "fantastic."

Mike Becker, senior human resources representative at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, says the partnership forged between Gateway and his company benefits both sides.

"Gateway provides a tremendous benefit for us because Gateway is local and has strong health care programs," he says.



Above, Bob Moss says Gateway graduates receive the training and possess the skills he seeks for his workforce. At left, more than 50 percent of the welders at W.M. Sprinkman Corp. are Gateway graduates.

A longstanding partnership between the hospital and college also provides clinical opportunities for Gateway students. "That's the biggest advantage, I think - many have been through our doors through those clinical (experiences), and know how our business operates, and we know them," he says.

In addition, Gateway is willing to expand or tweak existing programs, or even create new ones, based on the needs of health care providers, Mike says. That means health care program students are being trained for in-demand careers - and are receiving the industry-driven training employers seek most from applicants.

"For us, we want to make sure we have a strong applicant pool going into the future," says Mike.

Ed Kist, sales support and marketing manager for LinMot, says the Gateway graduates they hire

are exactly what they seek for their workforce - with the technical skills needed to do the job.

"We need someone with a degree of technical expertise as well as creativity," says Ed. "There are applicants who have the technical expertise, but we also need the creativity that Gateway graduate bring."

A recent Gateway Graphic Communications graduate redesigned the company's site, helping to increase its searchability, going from Page 4 on an Internet search engine to Page 1. "We were impressed," says Ed.

Steve Martin, owner of Aspen Property, hires graduates of Gateway's Horticulture program.

"The graduates were well-taught for the career field," says Martin. "They had the knowledge to function well within the career field."

College partners to provide increased educational options

Gateway students gain an even greater access to a bachelor's degree and success in their future careers through an effort to allow Gateway students who graduate from seven business programs to enter UW-Parkside as juniors.

New transfer agreements will provide the opportunity for students graduating from Gateway with degrees in accounting, business management, marketing, and supervisory management to transfer into UW-Parkside in the programs of accounting, management information systems, and business management (with concentration areas of general business, finance, human resource management, and marketing) in the UW-Parkside College of Business, Economics, and Computing; students graduating with a Gateway degree in graphic communications will have the opportunity to transfer into UW-Parkside's graphic design (art) degree program in the UW-Parkside College of Arts and Humanities.

The two colleges recently signed the 2-plus-2 articulation agreements.

"I applaud the hard work of Gateway and UW-Parkside staff who recognized the value of these agreements and worked hard to make them happen for the benefit of students and our community," said Gateway President and CEO Bryan Albrecht. "We are committed to enhancing our region's educational accessibility and quality. These agreements work to the students' benefit and they strengthen our institutions as well."

Many students today see competing priorities of school, work and finances as barriers to higher education and a career that will allow them to support a family. This agreement helps remove some of those barriers.

These agreements provide students even greater options for their education and career. They can earn a technical college degree and enter the workforce - but still have the opportunity earn a baccalaureate degree.



Gateway President and CEO Bryan Albrecht, at the ceremony celebrating new transfer agreements with UW-Parkside. The agreements give Gateway students one more option for their educational pathway.

Grad gets great education at Gateway, says new transfer agreement helps students, too

Greg Kiriaki knew he had to earn a degree to give stability to his future. While there were times following the years after graduating high school when he made good money working construction, the ebb and flow of the economy also meant there were times he was out of work.

He turned to Gateway to earn a degree in business, a field that has always interested him. He chose Gateway based on reputation, affordability and because it was near his home. He had become invested in his community and wanted to stay here to learn and live.

One course away from graduating at Gateway in Business Management in Fall 2013, Greg now seeks to continue his education. He still wants reputation, affordability, a college that will recognize the credits he's earned and is close to the



home and community he's become even more invested in.

He's turning to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, due, in part, to the recent business transfer agreement forged between the four-year university and Gateway.

"We can transfer anywhere from 56 to 62 credits. The transfer saves us a decent amount of money and taking two years at Gateway and then two years at UW-Parkside is a great way to get a four-year education."

"This presents a better opportunity to obtain the four-year degree. Plus, it's close to where I live. My family lives here, I coach and am part of a competitive powerlifting team. There are quite a few reasons why I don't want to leave this area and would rather earn my degree close to home."

Gateway students gain from national accreditation

College first in state to gain prestigious designation

Gateway students will benefit educationally as well as getting an edge on other applicants for potential jobs because of a recent national accreditation given to the college.

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Associate Degree Board of Commissioners awarded Gateway initial accreditation of its business programs, the first technical college in Wisconsin to receive that designation.

National accreditation with this prestigious group has been a longtime goal of Gateway's business program, a way to provide even further solid education to students and increase their opportunities with future employers

and four-year colleges.

The national accreditation means Gateway programs, curriculum and staff members meet the rigorous standards set by the ACBSP, and put the learning opportunities on par with four-year colleges in Wisconsin and throughout the nation.

"This accreditation is a validation that our program is now on a different, higher, plateau than in the past," said Associate Dean of Business Services Manoj Babu.

"Businesses look for this accreditation as they interview applicants and our graduates will have an increased opportunity to be hired because of it."

Four-year colleges also look for this accreditation when forging transfer agreements with technical colleges, which may open doors to even more opportunities for this in the future.

"Gateway Technical College has shown their com-

mitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process," said ACBSP Director of Accreditation Steve Parscale, who will present the Certificate of Initial Accreditation at the ACBSP Annual Conference in Chicago, Ill., June 29.

"This accreditation is evidence that Gateway Technical College is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students."

Babu said but that work was ramped up when businesses began asking for even more verification of the ways Gateway provides quality education.

"Accreditation gives us that high value, that we are doing what we say we are doing," he said. "And it's ongoing - accreditation doesn't end here. It begins here - to retain the accreditation, we need to consistently improve and provide the best education we can to our students."

"This accreditation is evidence that Gateway Technical College is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students."

- Steve Parscale, ACBSP
director of Accreditation

For more

- For more information on ACBSP, go to www.acbsp.org
- For more information on Gateway's business programs, go to www.gtc.edu/bit

Gateway 3.2.1: Our past, present and future

Our vision is as simple as 3.2.1. We serve 3 counties for 2 centuries with 1 common mission - to prepare a highly educated and well-trained workforce.

Whether I am talking with students, employees or community members, I always try to begin that conversation with our purpose and mission of our college. Gateway's history is a remarkable story. Noah Brown noted in his book "First in World" that Gateway's original name, Racine Continuation School, is considered to be the first publicly funded technical college in America.

That's a distinctive honor when you think of the more than 1,200 community and technical colleges reaching across all 50 states and territories today. Each has a purpose and mission to serve its local community - but

only one can say they were the first in the world. Recently, I had the unique opportunity to share some of our best examples of why Gateway remains successful throughout Southeastern Wisconsin, at a U.S. Congressional Hearing on Education and Workforce Training. I shared with the nation that our success stems from supportive community and business partnerships that link to a skilled workforce.

As I think about the 100-plus years Gateway has served its communities, I reflect on the more than 2 million people whose lives have been touched and careers strengthened because Gateway provided a pathway for education and economic prosperity. I am humbled, too, in your service. Cumulatively, Gateway's service to our citizens is larger than the total populations of such states as Rhode Island, North Dakota and Nebraska and even compares to the population of many countries.

With this legacy comes responsibility. We continue to look to the future for ways to better serve our students and community. This year we initiated a Lean Six Sigma quality systems improvement model to strengthen our internal processes, improve efficiency and reduce costs. We expanded our offerings to include Machine Tool and Die Technician courses, a series of courses to strengthen our community outreach and soon we will begin offering an Ophthalmologic Medical Assistant Technician certificate. Our Business Services programs earned national accreditation, strengthening our articulation with universities and ensuring our students receive the best training and education.

Gateway continues to build upon its solid historic foundation. The stories you read in Good News are examples of the success of our students and serve as a reminder that as Gateway grows, so does our community - one graduate at a time.

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Less than two years into his Graphics Communications degree, Greg Kirstein, far left, is being invited to show just how much of his career he's unlocked. He will show it at a nationally-acclaimed exhibit at the national American Association of Community Colleges' national Workforce Development Institute held in St. Petersburg, Fla. Jan. 29-Feb. 1.

Below, Greg's class project.

CLASS PROJECT LEADS TO DISPLAY AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND MUSEUM

Instructor urged student to submit piece to national panel

Training, opportunity and encouragement from Gateway have helped Greg Kirstein to take his talent to a national level.

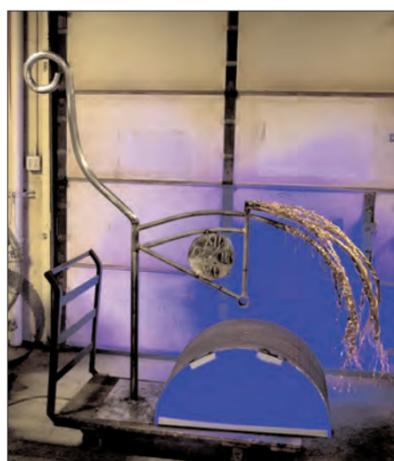
Less than two years into his degree program, he's being invited to show just how much of his career he's unlocked at a nationally-acclaimed exhibit at the national American Association of Community Colleges' national Workforce Development Institute held in St. Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 29-Feb. 1.

The piece, called "Keycock," is made of keys and other metals in the shape of a peacock. The keys on the metal sculpture metaphorically unlock a bright and solid future filled with success for Gateway - and all community college - students.

"It's a great feeling to be able to represent Gateway at this national museum, and national conference," said Greg.

Photos of the piece will also be displayed at The Dali Museum during a reception held there for the AACC conference. The group worked with the curator of The Dali Museum, who agreed to showcase one piece of artwork from a community college student or students - and Kirstein's piece was selected.

Greg says he believes the opportunity to make the sculpture and have it displayed at the event



and The Dali Museum will have an impact on his career.

"This is something I can put on a resume," he said. "In the graphics industry, the resume you bring to the interview is important - it reflects on your work. My resume will include a national exhibit."

Kirstein uses about 250 keys and other pieces of metals for his piece, donated from staff and community members from Racine, Walworth and Kenosha counties. A fabrication team headed by Greg assembled the metal piece, which weighs about 250 pounds, including the base

and other metal pieces for the structure.

Greg began at Gateway in Spring 2012 taking a single course in Graphic Communications, still unsure if this program was the career path for his future.

Midway through that course, though, an instructor helped him realize that, in his heart, graphic communications held the key to unlock his career and future.

Keycock's genesis came in Fall 2012 when Greg created a kinetic sculpture made from keys and wire coat hangers found in his grandparent's basement. He made the piece for his class, but Laura Laznicka - the instructor who helped him decide upon a career field - encouraged him to enter it in Gateway's annual design show. It received great reviews from instructors and the public.

Many students take part in the design show, attended by the public as well as potential employers - graduates now employed in the field point to the show as the place where their employer first noticed their work and targeted them as a potential employee.

When the request for submissions came for the national show and the Dali art museum, Laura urged Greg to reproduce the piece on a larger scale - and he agreed.

"My idea was to make sure that I received keys from all three counties Gateway serves, to ask the community to be a part of the sculpture," says Kirstein. "To me, the subliminal message is that Gateway is the key to your success, to the success of students and our communities."

Training brings smile to graduate

College helped her decide career - and then prepare to land job

Lytwan Campbell smiles when she thinks of her new career and new job.

It is, after all, her belief that everyone should smile, coupled with Gateway Technical College's Dental Assistant program, that helped her to land a job in the career field she believes she was meant to be in.

"I feel they do a great job with the program," says Lytwan. "They trained me well and the equipment is everything you would need to learn to use in an actual office. The operatory is beautiful - it is pretty much like any operatory I've seen in the working world."

Lytwan began volunteering at a newly established dental practice in Pleasant Prairie, run by Dr. Michelle DiStefano. She volunteered her services three times before she was outright hired to work four hours a week - before she even graduated. That time has increased as the practice has taken on new patients.

"I realized I would soon be looking for a job, and decided I should volunteer so I can continue to gain skills, and could add that to my resume," she says. "They told me I was just what they were

looking for - and hired me. It worked out great."

Lytwan is up to working 18 hours a week and hopes to be full-time soon. "Gateway helped me out greatly. My education helped me to get in the door where I'm working now - I have the skills to be a dental assistant."

Lytwan began her education at UW-Parkside to become a physical therapist. She started taking some of her general education courses, and happened to see the Dental Assistant program at Gateway.

That brought back memories of her youth, when she had to have a silver cap removed from her front teeth - only to find the teeth were stained. Some of her classmates kidded her about it, so she went to a dentist to have them bleached white.

"The dental assistant was real nice, she walked me through what would happen and was very reassuring," Lytwan says. "I found out I was interested in what she did for a living."

Lytwan said industry-savvy instructors helped her gain the skills to enter her career, as well as getting one-on-one attention from instructors for those hard-to-understand topics. "What we need, we received. If we didn't understand it right away, they were right there to help us grasp the concepts we need," she says.

The college's Health Profession Opportunity



Program also helped Lytwan. The program provided her with tutors, incentives and assisted her financially. "The program helped me in so many ways - books for classes, time management, test taking techniques, seminars on how to dress for your career and job interviews, and financial help," says Lytwan.

She smiles when she thinks of being able to enter her career, as well as being able to work with others on their smiles.

"I like working with people, calming their fears and helping them to have that great smile, to be confident and able to smile," says Lytwan. "Having that beautiful smile can turn you around."

Lytwan Campbell, right, says industry-savvy instructors helped her gain the skills to enter her career as a dental assistant, as well as getting one-on-one attention from instructors for those hard to understand topics. She began volunteering at a local dentistry to hone her skills before graduation - but was quickly hired as a staff member.

IN BRIEF



Rudy the Redhawk at a recent event.

Gateway introduces Rudy to students, community

Gateway Technical College has rolled out its new mascot, Rudy the Redhawk, to students and the community.

Rudy can be seen nearly everywhere and has appeared at every big college event - he has become a unifying icon for Gateway, building college pride and a sense of campus community. Rudy the Red Hawk was named as the official mascot for Gateway in Summer 2013, the first mascot for the college in recent memory.

For more
Interested in having Rudy at your event? Go to www.gtc.edu/redhawks or call (262) 564-3044

Since then, the presence of the mascot has been rolled out through spirit wear and new logos. Rudy has also participated in many events, from Drive-in Movie night with students and their families to walking the runway in the International Education Week fashion show.

Those wishing to buy Rudy spirit wear - from polo shirts to baseball caps - can do so at the Follett bookstores on the Elkhorn, Kenosha and Racine campuses.

Rudy is also available to make guest appearances at area events. "We would love to have Rudy get involved in education and community events in all of the communities we serve," says Gateway student marketing manager Kristin Gunia.



Gateway's new multicultural resource center.

Remodeled spaces provide high quality Support Services to Gateway students

Gateway this semester opened its remodeled Learning Success Center on the first floor of the Lake Building on the Racine Campus, providing a focal point for all Gateway students to receive the academic and support services they seek for educational success.

In addition, the space formerly occupied by the Academic Support Center will now be home to Gateway's first multicultural resource center.

The first floor of the Lake Building previously housed Student Services and that 16,250-square-foot space will now be home to all of the following programs and services: The testing center, adult basic education, English Language Learner program, academic support/tutoring, disability support services and a new computer lab. In addition, the center provides office space for staff working in the international education and multicultural programs, TRiO, non-traditional occupations and the Step-Up program.

This newly remodeled 1,500-square-foot space for the multicultural resource center will be redesigned to host a variety of diversity related programs, workshops and seminars.

Gateway increases events, connections with 20th anniversary of Dr. King Celebration



The Chicago Mass Choir.

Gateway Technical College will infuse even more meaning and community connection into its 20th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration in 2014 with several new events added to the traditional day-of event.

The additional event components will provide additional focus on King's work to ensure open and equal education, as well his work as a minister.

"This year, we're adding a few special components to enhance the messages that Dr. King has left with us," says Gateway Marketing Director Jayne Herring. "People view him as a great man of faith and a great proponent of education. These two tenets are the foundation for these additional events to our celebration."

Gateway Executive Vice President/Provost Zina Haywood points out that the event has become a way for Gateway to connect with the communities it serves, while celebrating the legacy of the civil rights leader.

"The celebration fits well with our mission and vision that we are a center of education and training - but that it also is a place where people come for personal enrichment," says Haywood. "We feel our Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration is an event where you can achieve that personal enrichment."

"They will be answering the question: Are we doing enough in the area of minority student achievement, and what more should we be doing?" says Herring.

The roundtable will be held in the Madrigrano Auditorium, and is open to the public. The event will be video recorded and a white paper report created, sharing what steps should be taken to increase minority student achievement.

EDUCATION: From Access to Success



Actor Gregg Riley will do an in-character performance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Gateway's Dr. King celebration in January.

For more

Go to www.gtc.edu/mlk

Events include:

■ Gospel concert. On Jan. 18, Gateway will partner with Carthage College to host a Chicago Mass Choir gospel concert. While the choir will perform for much of the two-hour production, several local artists and church groups are also scheduled to perform. In conjunction with the concert, winners from Dr. King-focused art and essay contests will also be featured. Some of the students who submitted written work will read their pieces during the concert.

■ Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration. The traditional hourlong event will be held Jan. 20 in the Madrigrano Auditorium at Gateway's Kenosha Campus. It will feature Gregg Riley, an actor who gives inspirational, in-character speeches of King.

■ Education summit. Following the Dr. King celebration and reception, an education summit will be held to discuss the status of educational programs and opportunities focused on minority student success. Educational leaders and minority education experts from K12 districts and colleges across Gateways' three-county district are being invited to the summit.

MORE THAN JUST A JOB: Grad follows passion

College gave training to pave way for career of dreams

Cooking and culinary arts are more than just a job and career to Gateway Technical College graduate Mark Kleisner - it's his passion.

Gateway helped him to enter a career he's passionate about through solid training, access to modern equipment and a recommendation strong enough to ensure he was hired after only a phone conversation with his current employer.

The employer knew of Gateway's reputation for having a strong culinary arts program - and an employee on staff who trained at the college to reinforce that reputation.

"My boss was looking to fill a position, and one of the staff earned her Culinary Arts degree at Gateway," says Mark. "She recommended Gateway and the boss called Gateway and asked my instructor, Susanna Elrod, if she knew of a graduate who was passionate about the career field and was seeking a job.

"Susanna recommended me, then gave them my contact information. They called me, I did a quick interview on the phone, and they fast-tracked me - I was working there within two weeks. My supervisor knew Gateway had a solid program, simple as that. No interview, just the phone conversation and e-mailing them my resume."

The Culinary Arts associate degree graduate says Gateway indeed prepared him well for the career field, providing him with the skills to become a skilled chef as well as something else - the passion and drive needed in the restaurant and food industry.

"I received a lot of real-world experience, not just book work - but also how to succeed every day in my career," he says. "They gave me the skills to deal with problems as they arise, how to deal with customers, and operating a restaurant.

"More than anything else, they confirmed to me that culinary arts is not just a job - it's a passion. They taught me how to succeed at my career and



enjoy it."

Mark says the new equipment students train on in the remodeled Racine Campus kitchen helped him to transition to his new career as a corporate catering assistant, as well. "A lot of food preparation at Gateway is from scratch, which is a good skill to have," says Mark. "But where I work now, we need to use equipment to assist us with large orders. I knew how to use the equipment because I had already trained on much of it at Gateway - that was very beneficial to me."

Mark also points out that Gateway instructors went the extra mile to work with him toward his success and encouraged him to engage in other learning opportunities and career-related events. "My instructors went above and beyond to give me culinary experiences that I could only dream about."

Mark was assisted in his Gateway journey by Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. scholarships - which helped him "start my journey to my dream job."

Mark says he's been passionate about cooking since childhood and dreamed of entering the field - which includes becoming a chef and writing a cookbook. Gateway has given him the foundation to achieve both, he says.

Gateway Culinary Arts graduate Mark Kleisner says the college helped him enter a career he's passionate about through solid training, access to modern equipment and a recommendation strong enough to ensure he was hired after only a phone conversation with his current employer.

"My supervisor knew Gateway had a solid program, simple as that. No interview, just the phone conversation and e-mailing them my resume."

- Mark Kleisner

For more

Go to www.gtc.edu/culinary-arts
www.journaltimes.com/jtkitchen

"That training has given me an edge in my career," he says. "The degree is more than just a piece of paper - it's proof that I received great training and achieved every goal set before me. It shows my employer that I am willing to work to achieve my personal goals, as well as the goal of the company.

"While the degree will help me to attain a paycheck, the culinary field is more than just about money. It's about passion. The degree proves what you are here for - this is what you are meant to be doing. Gateway helped me to achieve that."

New courses to help students become better writers, fast track education

Kelly Mason loves computers, video games and reading about the video game industry - and loves the fact that Gateway has combined all three into a writing course.

Games and Culture requires students to play video games - that's correct, requires - and then analyze the games through blogs, essays and other forms of composition.

"What other class do you take where your homework is playing video games?" says Kelly. "There is no other class like it. It's exciting - you are learning how to write and blog, but you still play video games."

Kelly says she's honed her writing skills

through the course, as well as something else - her knowledge of the video game industry. She's enrolled in Gateway's IT Software Developer program and says she's learned a lot about the industry from reading industry articles that are part of the homework.

"The games and articles we read have made me more interested in writing. I wasn't that interested before. Now I can't wait to write," she says.

Kelly's class is just one example of how Gateway is working to engage its students and anticipate students' immediate and longer-term needs.

Beginning Spring 2014, Gateway will begin offering a "fast track" course, using a blended format - face-to-face instruction supplemented with online support and activities - to deliver two separate courses in the same time slot.

"We hope this new format will help students make the most of their time on campus," says Kathryn Nordhaus, Gateway General Studies dean.

The fast-track offering for spring combines English Composition I and Introduction to Sociology. Students will be dually enrolled in both courses at once, be taught by instructors of communication and soci-

ology working together and earn 6 credits in the same amount of time on campus they would have taken for one 3-credit class.

"We also hope it will increase student learning, because students will be learning and applying many of the same concepts in two different courses," says Kathryn.

The second innovative program designed to engage students more involves themed English Composition I courses.

"Students who take a themed section will have a greater opportunity to engage in the topics that are more interesting to them," says Kathryn.

For more

Go to www.gtc.edu/webadvisor

"What other class do you take where your homework is playing video games?"

- Kelly Mason

IT graduates: Gateway has the training and focus to help you enter your career

Graduates return to college to offer advice to students

• Gateway has the training and opportunities to make sure students are prepared to land a job after graduation.

• The college's student information technology club helps you to hone your technical and people skills.

• Gateway offers training that can't be found elsewhere.

Those were some of the messages delivered by Gateway Information Technology program graduates to current students at a graduate panel held in Fall 2013. All received solid training at Gateway to help them successfully enter the IT field - some rising to managerial positions - and they wanted to give back to current students by offering advice on the career field and how students should prepare themselves now for their future jobs.

"I tell students if they put in the effort, they will obtain a great understanding of the occupation and what it takes to succeed in it," says **Harvey Kost, a Spring 2013 graduate** who is now a computer programmer with a steel ring company.

"I believe the training I received was solid and allowed me to start off making a third more than I was making prior to that - and now I make double what I was making before."

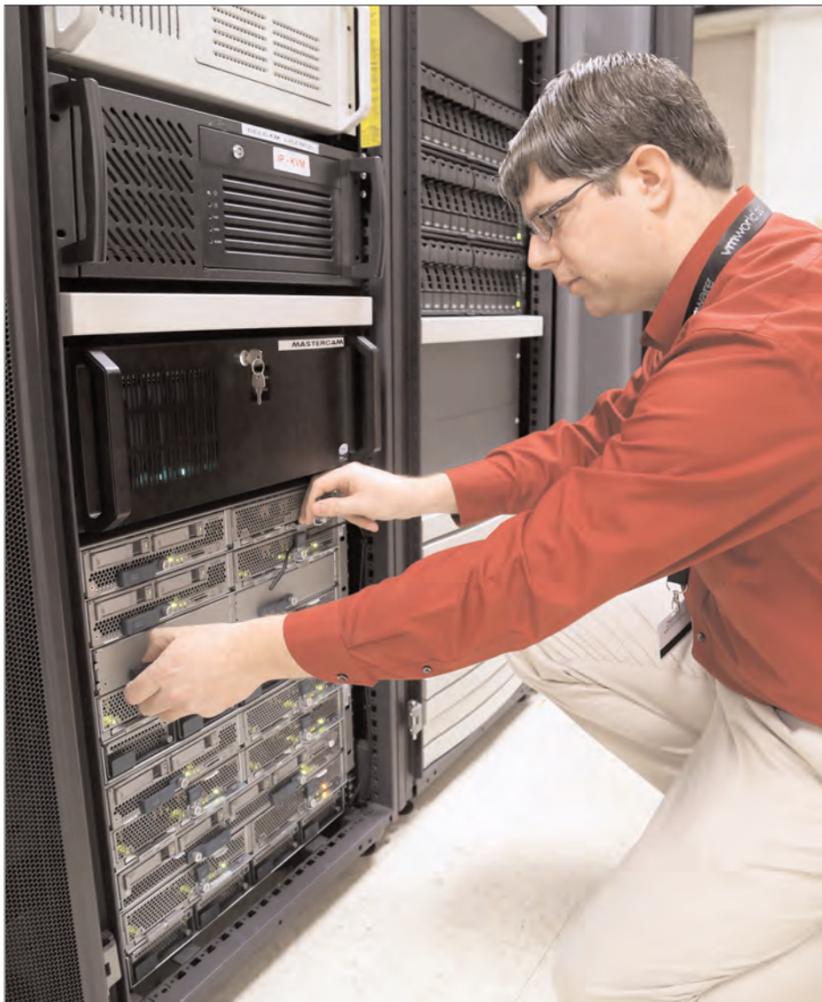
Harvey began at Gateway in 2006, but took a few years off before coming back to earn his degree.

"I want students to know that the degree and training will help them to land a better job as well as further their career."

Eric Doherty, Gateway director of server and virtualization technology and a 2003 Gateway graduate, says Gateway encouraged him to network with area employers prior to graduation, which gave him a clearer picture of what they expected from their workers. That gave him the opportunity to make sure to have those skills upon graduation - which Gateway did deliver to him.

"I had a lot of self-taught knowledge when I came to Gateway, but I benefited from getting the book knowledge and the instruction on how to do things correctly," says Eric.

Eric's advice to students is to be passionate about the career they will enter, and be ready to learn throughout their career. "Nowadays, learning will not carry you through a 30-year career," he says.



IT director Eric Doherty says the training he received at Gateway helped him to enter his career and climb the corporate ladder. He was one of several Gateway graduates to talk to current students about how to prepare for the career field, during a roundtable discussion in Fall 2013.

"You have to evolve with the industry, be flexible." Students asked Eric about industry salaries and the demand for workers. "I tell them the salaries are good, and there will always be a need for programmers, information technology, server support and multimedia equipment professionals," he says. "Even with outsourcing, a person over the phone can only do so much. To resolve the issue,

to really get to the heart of that computer problem, you are going to need someone on site."

Like many Gateway graduates, Eric is willing to work with current students to help them prepare for their career, either with advice or demonstrating operations in a typical workplace.

Erik Kraft, a Spring 2013 programming graduate of Gateway, also participated in the board discussion. He enrolled in Gateway right out of high school because he heard the reputation of the program was strong, it was inexpensive compared to four-year colleges and "always had a thing about working on computers."

- Erik Kraft

For more

■ For more information, go to www.gtc.edu/IT

down to the dynamics of how an office works.

"There were a lot of hands-on activities, real-world applications. My Gateway education really helped me out in my career."

Erik says he advises students to engage in all the activities and training offered at Gateway. "Be prepared to work in team environments, to work closely with other people," he says. "That was something my instructors required us to do."

Erik was also a member of the student chapter of Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP), one of the many student groups available to Gateway students. He says it also helped him to work as a member of a team.

"I think IT people can sometimes be introverted - including myself. Gateway helped me to work as part of a team and AITP helped me when I applied for a job. The first thing my employer asked me was about that experience - it looked great when I applied there."

Finally, Erik told students to engage in the IBMi training offered at Gateway, one of the few colleges to do so. "Having that training on my resume really helped me with my job."

Student: Research shows Gateway is the best

Instructors, college well-respected in future career field

Marina Schwenk set a goal of gaining an education and training at a reputable college, one that industry would recognize as solid and give her the best start to a career.

She began her education at Gateway before doing an in-depth analysis of area colleges to meet her goal. After much work, she chose to stay where she began - at Gateway.

"I researched it for myself, and realized that Gateway had the best reputation, as far as education, with industry and the ability to transfer to a four-year college if I decided to continue," says Marina. "I chose to stay at Gateway - and that was the best decision I ever made."

Marina says Gateway is viewed as a premier college offering programming training, and has given her the education and opportunity to enter her career successfully. She was reminded of this as she helped set up panels for an IT career event hosted at the college - made up of Gateway graduates who've successfully entered the IT career because of their training.

"This is the premier college for RPG programming,"

For more

■ For more go to www.gtc.edu/foundation

says Marina. "The instructors are known nationally and the instruction is high quality. They really teach you what it will be like in the industry, and prepare you well."

In addition to solid training, a Gateway Foundation scholarship gave Marina the extra boost of confidence to continue on with her studies, degree - and success. Marina called the two scholarships awarded to her a "huge impact to me financially and personally."

"It relieved the financial pressure I was under," says Marina. "The scholarships enabled me to look forward to what I need to do in life and my career."

"Rather than just trying to survive financially and with my classes, it gave me the freedom to succeed as well as help other students so they can meet their goals, too."

Marina was awarded the 2013 SC Johnson Student Life Scholarship and the Wisconsin Midrange Computer Professional Association Scholarship.

Marina has succeeded in her program and has reached out to even broader goals - she privately tutors IT students, as well as serving in a leadership role for Gateway's student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP).

"It's given me a chance to achieve my goals and realize my dreams," says Marina.



Gateway is viewed as a premier college offering programming training, and has given Marina Schwenk, left, the education and opportunity to enter her career successfully.

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