



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*March 17, 2016*

### **GATEWAY AS A LEADER**

February 18th was the National Signing Day event as part of NC3 & Gateway's initiative to help promote and celebrate the high school students that choose a technical career path. It was a very well done event with close to 150 students. Fourteen campuses across the US participated and all were streamed live from the NC3 website and are stored there so friends and family who could not attend or watch live can still be part of the moment. Gateway had dignitaries from Trane, Snap-on, and FCA at the event to welcome our new students to their respective programs. This was a great way to introduce not just to students but the community, Gateway's very strong and close partnerships with industry.

### **ACADEMIC AND CAMPUS AFFAIRS**

#### **Developmental Education**

3 out of the 4 students in the ABE/ELL Marketing Bridge Program received \$500 scholarships from the Gateway Foundation (NOTE: These students are part of the original cohort group that started in Fall 2014). The ABE/ELL Marketing Bridge students participated in the DECA State Conference March 3rd-6th. Four of the students qualified for National DECA Conference Washington DC.

#### **General Studies**

Between October and December, the Traffic Safety Department served 279 students throughout the three counties we serve—228 of those students were in the Group Dynamics class, and the balance were divided between Multiple Offender and Traffic Safety.

The interest in the General Studies transfer agreements continues to grow. As a demonstration of this interest, on the CTE Letter of Intent Signing Day, General Studies had interest from 17 students who planned to enroll in either the General Studies Certificate (1+3) or one of the General Studies Transfer Agreements (2+2's) with UW-Parkside.

The Communications Department has revised its developmental writing curriculum to reduce the progression from three classes (Pre-Tech Writing, Pre-College Writing, and Intro to College Writing) to two classes (Foundations of Writing and Intro to College Writing). Foundations of Writing is running successfully this semester for the first time. English Language Learners (ELL students) will need additional help to transition to college classes, so Communications and English Language Learner (ELL) faculty are working together to pilot a "bridge" class for ELL students taking developmental writing. In the fall, a special section of Foundations of Writing on the Racine campus will offer ELL students a chance to get additional support after class under the guidance of an ELL instructor. Heidi Jenkins (Communications) will teach the main class and Laura Knudson (ELL) will provide support for the co-requisite class.

The Communications Department, with the support of a grant from the Gateway Foundation, was able to allow developmental writing students to retake the Compass placement test at the end of their first semester of remediation. The offer was made to 291 students enrolled in Pre-Tech Writing and Pre-College Writing in the Fall 2015 semester. The purpose was to determine the effectiveness of remediation, to predict success in the new, more streamlined

developmental sequence, and to accelerate remediation in writing. Among the results of the project: Approximately 80 students retested, and 34 students were able to progress through the developmental writing sequence more quickly, saving them a collective total of \$14,302 in tuition and textbook costs. These students can now direct this time and money more effectively toward their academic goals at Gateway, and their experience helped confirm that the streamlined developmental sequence is on track. General Studies thanks the Foundation for its financial support, along with the support of Betty Dulak, Grant Accounting Analyst, and Michelle James, Director of Testing, who facilitated the grant and testing processes. Also, we appreciate the offer of Dr. Tammi Summers, Dean of Learning Success, who volunteered to provide additional funds for the project if student response to the opportunity to retest exceeded our expectations. Though we didn't need to take her up on her offer, we are grateful for the support.

## **COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

Marketing has been working diligently to support the other divisions' and departments' projects as well as initiating its own.

A great deal of videotaping has taken place this month and is being edited for a variety of uses to support the Gateway Promise (informational and fund raising), the opening of the RPM center labs in Elkhorn, and in support of manufacturing. Many testimonials offer great support and excitement for all we do.

We are excited to partner with Greening Greater Racine to produce and promote EcoFest Racine, scheduled for March 19th on the Racine campus from 9-1. Approximately 40 area sustainability-related organizations or businesses are involved. Twenty minute mini workshops will be offered every half hour in two rooms. Gateway instructors and student are volunteering their time to assist with the event.

A top of mind campaign highlighting reduced college debt and high placement of graduates is launching in March and will continue during the non-semester-advertising-push months thru December. The campaign is running on Facebook and instagram and billboards

As of March 3, 2016, the Foundation has received \$320,840 in gifts from individuals (including Gateway faculty and staff as well as alumni), corporations, service clubs, and foundations. Donors have contributed to areas such as the mission of the Foundation, continuing student scholarships, the Gateway Promise endowed fund, student emergency funds, and capital gifts).

The Foundation hosted a breakfast for Promise donors the morning of the unveiling of the Gateway Promise on February 11. About 25 donors and Foundation Board members were able to join us prior to the morning's announcement. To date, \$1,514,000 has been secured for the Gateway Promise. The Foundation will be launching small group gatherings in April and May to encourage the community to learn about the Gateway Promise and how they can be involved in a more intimate setting. For more information about hosting a gathering, please contact Jennifer Charpentier, Executive Director, [charpentierj@gtc.edu](mailto:charpentierj@gtc.edu).

The Foundation has partnered with Human Resources to host "Planning for Life's Transitions" lunches. Held on each campus, "Planning Life's Transitions" is for Gateway employees and retirees to hear from professionals about health care after retirement, financial planning, and wills, trusts, and powers of attorney. Nine local professionals were recruited to share their expertise with our guests. More than 65 employees and retirees are expected at the lunches held March 1 (Kenosha), March 3 (Racine) and March 10 (Elkhorn).

The Foundation has transitioned its fund raising software into the Raiser's Edge and is in the process of deploying the new system. The fund accounting software transition will complete its transition in early April. This investment by the Foundation Board in the software will help the Foundation better steward donors gifts and build relationships on behalf of the College.

The 22nd Annual Foundation Scramble will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at Hawk's View Golf Course in Lake Geneva. Event sponsorships are available as well as ball drop tickets are for sale. Please contact Celeste Henken, Foundation & Alumni Relations Coordinator, at [henkenc@gtc.edu](mailto:henkenc@gtc.edu) for more information.

The Alumni Association will be hosting a breakfast for Gateway Alumni at the Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 23, 2016 held on the Kenosha Campus. Breakfast will be at the Center for Sustainable Living.

The Gateway Promise is moving forward after the announcement on February 11th with the development of fund raising initiatives and community speaking engagements. There is a lot of excitement in our communities around the Promise.

RAMAC hosted a legislative breakfast that was well attended. This breakfast brought together elected officials to discuss topics that included - transportation and roads, immigration, education partnerships and the water issue in Waukesha that potentially will impact Racine.

Secretary Ray Allen of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, visited the iMET center and spoke with students, businesses and instructors that are involved in the high school boot camp. This was a great conversation and the impact of the program was certainly shown to the Secretary.

We continue to work on the facilities and the creation of the Gateway Experience at the college. We are preparing for the ribbon cutting of the RPM center in Elkhorn which will take place on April 20th.

We have begun work on the college sustainability plan and continue to host workshops at the Center for Sustainable Living.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Spring enrollment is down -4.4% as we continue the spring term. Enrollment for FY16 is currently down -2.1%. Summer registration continues.

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Business Office in conjunction with Business and Workforce Solutions participated in a week long Kaizen focusing on improving the Contracts for Service process. Turn around time for customers will be significantly improved and the college has developed a comprehensive system to expedite the time from customer contact to generating a contract and conclude with a timely invoice. As a result of the Kaizen, various cross functional teams are working on implementing the future state which is expected to be in place for fall.

Executive leadership and budget officers continue to review and prioritize their FY16-17 requests. We continue to monitor assumptions for state aid and tuition as we will likely receive direction in the weeks ahead and will allow us to prepare a preliminary balanced budget. This preliminary budget will be prepared for review at the April Board of Directors meeting.

Besides the Contracts for Service Kaizen, the Grants finance staff have participated in Workforce Advancement Training. They also attend monthly webinars for Federal grants gaining knowledge of important announcements. Budget revisions have been submitted for two Federal grants. The Grants finance team have worked with staff to develop budgets for new grant proposal submissions. The staff continues to update personnel allocations during the budget process as well as assist the Gateway Technical College Foundation in transitioning to new software.

Steve Stoeger-Moore, President of Districts Mutual Insurance, met with Gateway Technical College Support Counselors to discuss professional liability insurance coverage supplied by the college versus that provided by additional stand alone insurance coverage. Discussion also included requirements for possible internship participation within the counseling department.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES & FACILITIES**

The FY17 Facility Capital Budget along with the borrowing schedule has been completed It was driven by program needs with a significant investment in infrastructure upgrades.

Bill Whyte met with the new Workforce Development Director of the Tree Care Association to discuss the potential creation of an Urban Forestry program at Gateway. They would like to create a model that could be duplicated throughout the country.

A PowerPoint presentation for the Somers Community Information Session has been developed. The Information Session occurred on March 7 to address concerns and questions on the planned EVOC track at UW-Parkside.

Our Health Benefits Committee completed the Health Benefits RFP process and determined to stay with the current provider, WCA Group Health Trust. The Committee is now focusing on marketing the three (3) health clinics. The target for opening the clinics is early May.

The Workplace Dynamics Employee survey results were presented to all management employees. Each Division is now sharing their specific results with their employees along with developing plans on addressing those results over the next few months.

There are 3 candidates for the Board with applications due by noon on Monday, March 7. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, March 31.

Oversight for Faculty overloads/underloads have been completed. Overloads were finalized at \$43,175 which is \$12,075 under budget. Underloads are all under control with one faculty member having pay reduced.

The two unions (GTEA & GESP) presented paperwork for 2016 Certification Elections. The CPI for 07/01/16 contracts is at 0.12%. John Frost prepared and delivered proper eligible voter lists to the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission. Work has begun with a team to design a new potential merit pay system.

Our first Title IX case was initiated and processed under the new complaint procedures. Joshua Vollendorf was assigned this case as the investigator. We've also released the Title IX, *Not Anymore*, training for all students.

The annual Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) survey was completed.

We purchased the NEOGov Onboarding Software and the GO LIVE date is set for May 2, 2016.

Selina Bohn was selected to be a member of the Wisconsin Works Agency. The committee members represent 6 counties and The committee members will provide feedback regarding their new recruitment software for linking both the applicant and employers.

## **INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

### **Career Pathways**

The Career Pathways Manager submitted a grant application to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) for The Right Signals Initiative, a project focused on demonstrating a new credentialing model that recognized multiple quality credentials to send “the right signals” to employers, students, and colleges about the meaning of the credentials. Notification was received on February 22<sup>nd</sup> that Gateway was one of 20 community colleges nationwide to have been selected for participation in the project and to receive \$60,000 to supplement participating staff salaries and travel expenses during the 18-month duration of the project. The work is being supported by a grant from the Lumina Foundation as a part of its commitment to creating a student-centered, learning-based credentialing system in the U.S. that is characterized by key attributes such as common language, transparency, portability, and trust in credentials.

### **Research, Planning, & Development**

The Gateway Grants Office partnered with the Racine County Human Services Department and over 40 other community and government organizations to develop an application for a federal Promise Zone designation for high poverty areas of the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant. If awarded, the designation would be for a ten-year period. It would facilitate the flow of federal resources to the Racine area through a dedicated federal liaison, Americorps volunteers, tax credits, and additional points on federal grant applications.

## **LEARNING INNOVATION**

### **Distance Learning**

New policies related to technology procurement and digital communications have been approved by ELC and published to users. We are continuing our pilot project involving Blackboard Collaborate, which is a software tool intended to provide “live” remote class options for students and faculty. We are expanding the pilot group to include additional faculty to help us assess the efficacy of this tool. Concurrently, we are evaluating Pexip software to replace aging infrastructure related to meeting room video conferencing technology as well as the scheduling and recording functionality of these technologies. These technologies for live interaction bring instructional options directly to a user’s laptop.

### **Information Systems**

We have successfully deployed Ellucian’s Self Service Modules for Student Planning, Student Finance, and Financial Aid. The team is helping support this implementation. This team is also working on testing the Ellucian Mobile application.

### **Server and Virtualization Technology**

We are beginning to test our new VDI infrastructure. Our new approach will enable us to expand the use of VDI within our district. The Greenprint team has selected a new print vendor and has begun the process of replacing printers and related software processes around the district. The

new process makes printing smoother and reduces the issues we experienced with the previous vendor.

### **Networking, Infrastructure, and Technology Support Services**

Campus techs are continuing their efforts to replace aging desktops and laptops for staff scheduled for replacement this year. At the same time, we are continuing our initiative to identify and inventory currently-deployed computing technologies. This will allow us to build and validate our inventory database of deployed equipment. We are also engaged in updating network equipment and multimedia classrooms across the district. Derrick Domes has delivered our Cyber-Security presentation for several different departments. Response was very positive. Staff recognize the need for constantly evolving responses and strategies for maintaining the security of our network.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS**

### **Admissions**

Petitioning for clinical seats in the Nursing program for the fall semester is underway. The new Petitioning process continues to be extremely efficient for staff and transparent for students. Over 120 petitions were received.

### **New Student Specialists**

Gateway was one of six colleges nation-wide to host a CTE Letter of Intent Signing Day. The New Student Specialist team hosted ninety-five high school seniors along with 42 guests as they signed their letter of intent to become a Gateway Red Hawk in Fall 2016.

### **Student Accounts**

The Student Accounts team partnered with Financial Aid and Student Finance Specialist to make outreach phone calls to 240 students for past due balances.

### **Student Finance Specialists**

The Student Finance Specialist and Financial Aid team partnered with United Way to offer our SALT / VITA / FAFSA completion workshops. These workshops provided over 50 students the opportunity to complete a SALT Financial Literacy lesson on personal tax information, receive free tax preparation in partner with VITA (a volunteer tax preparation service), and complete their FAFSA accurately and early. This is a huge benefit to our students to complete their FAFSA early and know their financial aid eligibility.

### **Financial Aid**

Financial Aid is ready to import new FAFSAs for the 2016-2017 school year. This is the earliest date that we have ever imported FAFSAs, which allows students more time to get needed documents on file so they can enroll in the summer term. March 1st will be a target date for future years.

### **Registrar's Office**

Students used our new Student Planning self-service software for the first time for priority summer registration, which began February 8th. We have received feedback that students like the new look and are able to easily register for classes. The Registrar's Office staff participated in a Kaizen to improve the billing process for contract for service courses. Planning for the May commencement ceremony has begun; the Scholastic Awards ceremony earlier on the day of commencement this year.

### **Student Services Centers**

Many staff from the centers participated in the Racine/Kenosha Yo Puedo event. More than 150 high school students learned what Gateway has to offer including workshops on how to apply for college, how to pay for college, and support services available. The Gateway Promise Program kicked off this month with the Contact Center serving as the first point of contact for many individuals interested in learning more about the Gateway Promise Program.

### **Multicultural Programs**

*Finding the Leader in You (F.L.Y.)* is this year's Student Leadership Conference theme. The conference is scheduled on Wednesday, March 23, and Thursday, March 24. Day one will include campus Leadership Institutes featuring innovative and targeted programming that challenges students to think about their leadership purpose. Leadership Institute sessions include Reaching Beyond through Advocacy, Leadership on Campus: Finding Your Mojo, Walk a Mile in My Shoes, and Global Leadership.

Day Two of the conference is *The Gathering of Leaders* held in the Madrigano Auditorium on the Kenosha Campus. Transportation will be provided to and from the conference for students on the Racine and Elkhorn campuses. This year's keynote speaker is the dynamic Sammy Rangel. In addition to a luncheon, inspiring speakers, and door prizes, an awards ceremony will recognize student leaders' academic excellence, community and campus engagement, as well as the first-ever club awards in partnership with Student Life.

### **Tutoring Services**

As of the end of January, students had logged over 400 hours of online tutoring using our Brainfuse software, including 219 hours of live online tutoring in math from pre-algebra to calculus. During this same time period, students submitted 131 writing assignments for tutor feedback.

Facilitated Study Groups have also been very active this spring. We are currently holding 20 weekly sessions across the district. The targeted disciplines/courses include College Math, General Chemistry, Introduction to Psychology, Nursing, SharePoint Development, and Dental Assistant. The Nursing and SharePoint Development sessions are very well attended, usually logging in 8-10 students per session. Of the General Studies courses, General Chemistry is also well attended with as many as eight students per session. We are working with faculty to increase attendance in the College Math and Introduction to Psychology sessions.

## **BUSINESS & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**



Gateway Fab Lab gives our welding students a customized look! Fab Lab intern Diana Carmona used the laser in the Fab Lab to place a Gateway logo into the leather sleeves of the protective jackets for our welding students.

The Wisconsin Technology Education Association (WTEA) held their annual conference on February 25-26 and Gateway along with our partners from NC3 including Snap-on and Starrett had a strong presence and discussed with many high school instructors the opportunities they have to embed industry certifications in their various programs. With the Wisconsin Act 59 CTE Incentive Grants being a hot topic for discussion, there was a lot of interest in the NC3 certifications and to become more involved. Gateway Fab Lab Manager Greg Herker gave a presentation on Fab Labs & Gateway at the conference as well.

The Gateway Fab Lab will be hosting its first MakerGirl session on March 11th. This program brings young girls into the Fab Lab to design and 3D print. The session will generate interest in technical fields and leverages female students from Gateway to help teach and mentor the young ladies who attend.

On February 11th the Fab Lab, iMET, and Horizon Center hosted representatives from the Birdville School District in Texas. They are a high school that is looking to offer more certification opportunities to their students. They are interested in the NC3 / Snap-on model and building industry partnerships.

As part of his work with the US Fab Lab Network, Greg Herker has finalized an agreement between NC3 and USFLN. This will lead to the development of vendor certification on Fab Lab equipment and add to the NC3 teacher training.

Gateway along with the Milwaukee Area OSHA office, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Wisconsin Chapter, and WisCon offer the 5th annual Safety Day at Gateway's Racine Building Conference Center on March 9th from 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. The ability to maintain a safe and secure workplace is essential to worker safety. This conference is designed for employees and managers of businesses in general industry to provide the resources and information to enhance safety through awareness, design, delivery and evaluation.

B&WS Instructor Randy Reusser helped 14 MET students earn the Belden IBDN 726 Copper Certificate in the Industrial Data Communications class (605-133-3C61). He designed the class and incorporated two industry recognized certifications from Belden. Thanks to the generosity of Belden and their relationship with Gateway and Randy, there is no additional charge to the students.

Students in the Second Telecom Cable Installer Boot Camp just completed their fifth week of the 12-week boot camp. This group is known as the "Pioneers". At this point in time the boot camp students have earned six industry recognized certificates and certifications including the Belden IBDN 303 Design and Layout Certificate, Unique Fire Stopping Certification, and Werner Ladder Safety Certificate. This intense boot camp has 16 certificates and certifications packed into a short amount of time. The students will be working on real projects for the College near the end of the camp.

On Wednesday March 2, 2016 the Telecom Cable Installer boot camp students toured some of Carthage College's telecom spaces in what they call "The good, the bad, and the ugly tour". This is designed to show students a complex network and issues that can happen in telecom spaces. Randy Reusser the boot camp lead instructor formerly worked for Carthage College and has a great relationship with the College. He has also done training for Carthage as a Gateway instructor.

Several Gateway Instructors were recently featured in “At Your Disposal”, the Insinkerator Employee Newsletter. Currently four Gateway instructors are teaching classes at Insinkerator: B&WS Instructors Kim Sanderson, Randy Reusser, and MET Instructors Steve Whitmoyer and Greg Chapman. We have a great relationship with the company and are helping their employees advance both on-site and at iMET. Last week 10 students in Randy Reusser’s DC/AC I class at Insinkerator, earned Snap-On Multimeter Certifications.

Page 9

**Skills Center News**

Technical / Skilled Trades Courses Being Offered:

Motor Controls	Tuesdays 3:00-5:00 pm	Started 1/12/16
Pneumatics/Hydraulics	Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 pm	Started 1/13/16
Applied Math II	Thursdays 7:00-10:00 am	Started 1/14/16
DC/AC I	Fridays 11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Started 1/15/16

With the retirement of Dick Hanson, we have three new instructors teaching classes:



Greg Chapman



Randal R. Reusser



Steve Whitmoyer

A bio is posted on each instructor in the display case near the steps to the Skills Center (just outside the Process Engineering AST office).

Wednesday February 2 the Horizon Center hosted a number of high school tours including groups from Wilmot and one of the alternative high schools in Kenosha. This was coordinated through the College Connection team and worked well to showcase the facility and our industry partners.

On February 4th Grand Rapids Community College toured Horizon with the focal point on them becoming the next FCA Cap Local school. With them being one of the first schools to come to an NC3 training back in 2008, it is exciting to see them step up to this next level. They would be the first FCA CAP Local school in Michigan, so that is an important goal for FCA within their home state.

Horizon had the US Virgin Islands Dept of Education visit. They brought their high school automotive instructors and CTE coordinators. They toured Racine Park High School in the morning as well as the other Gateway campuses and Horizon to see how the Snap-on partnership can help improve their automotive programs. They are also looking at how to build an easier pathway to their post-secondary schools and wanted to explore Gateway’s working relationship with our local high schools.

The Horizon Center was invited to present at the Lake County High Schools Technology Campus in Grayslake, IL. They invite Gateway every year and on have commented on the high quality of our presentation. This high school is next to the College of Lake County, however CLC does not have a diesel program we typically draw a number of students for diesel. Throughout the day we did six sessions which over 180 students attended.

Thalia Mendez presented to the City of Racine and they unanimously voted to approve the proposed contract with Gateway Technical College for management of Launch Box through 2016.

Thalia signed one new Launch Box Membership Agreement and is working with the client on his business plan. Eight additional individuals received one-on-one technical assistance from Thalia. After one meeting with a client she assisted with the timely submission of an application for the Mt. Mary Starving Artists Show. This application had to be turned around very quickly and in her gratefulness, the client expressed that she would not have completed this without Thalia's guidance.

The Small Business Success Summit will be held on April 16th. To register please visit [training.qtc.edu](http://training.qtc.edu).

Outreach activities for February included a presentation to the Entrepreneurship Class on the Kenosha campus, the Water Council quarterly membership meeting, the EEDA monthly meeting in Elkhorn and the City of Racine Mayor's press conference on the new *Tool Kit for Entrepreneurship*. In addition, Thalia was part of a panel for WCEDA's event, Business Mentor Network. Starting March 17th, Thalia will be available on the 3rd Thursday from 9-12 to meet with entrepreneurs, both students and referrals from WCEDA at the Elkhorn Campus. Thalia will be the speaker at the first annual EEDA Project Elkhorn event on March 8th.

Stacey Erickson, Apprenticeship Secretary, represented Business and Workforce Solutions at the 2016 Manufacturing, Health, and IT Career Fair on February 24th at Elkhorn Area Middle School. Stacey distributed informational material and spoke to many students about all the wonderful and exciting programs our division has to offer. Students were able to ask specific questions of our industry experts that pertained to their skills, interests, and aptitudes, in addition to networking.

BWS will be hosting a Personal Development workshop with Horticulture instructor Kate Jerome on May 11. It is a Container Garden non-credit class. The cost is \$40 and we will accept 15 participants. To sign up visit [training.qtc.edu](http://training.qtc.edu)

There will be two information sessions for the upcoming Certified Logistics training on March 8th and 9th.

Debbie Davidson will represent Gateway at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington DC on March 14th. She will present along with other colleges from across the US on stackable credentials. This is a result of national research being done by Social Policy Research Associates.

Business & Workforce Solutions staff were joined by staff from the Business Office, Student Accounts, Registrar's Office, Learning Innovation Division, Institutional Effectiveness and others, for a week-long Lean Kaizen event. The Contract for Service Process used at the College was refined through a value stream mapping activity which included every step of the process. The collaboration and camaraderie during, and since, this event has proven once again, the passion of Gateway's employees to work together and keep the customer (internal and external) at the forefront of all we do.

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Ray Allen visited Gateway's iMET Center on February 29. New to the position, Secretary Allen, toured the facility and met with students from the High School CNC Boot Camp which was partially funded through a Blueprint for Prosperity grant. Following the tour a roundtable discussion was held with students, alumni, employers, workforce partners and Gateway faculty and staff.

Business & Workforce Solutions hosted an employer breakfast on February 26th to identify the need for skilled assembly workers. Five employers attended along with workforce partners. The attendees discussed the skills needed by each employer and the career pathway available in the industry. Stacia Thompson and Randy Reusser will now work on the development of a boot camp to provide the identified skills to unemployed and underemployed individuals in the Gateway District.

Robin Hoke, Director of Business Development attended the Manufacturing Matters conference sponsored by WMEP in Milwaukee serving as a representative of WTCS. At the conference Governor Walker outlined efforts on supporting manufacturing both economically and in preparation for the current and expected workforce and population gaps. There was a great focus on youth apprenticeship and career tracks for high school students bridging into technical training. We can expect more funding opportunities for programs such as the High School CNC boot camps which allows for dual enrollment in the future.

Attending the State of State address from both the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation executive director Mark Hogan, and Department of Workforce Development Secretary Allen. Below is a photo of Secretary Allen visiting the Wisconsin Technical College System Booth with both Jim Mackey from the system office, and Robin Hoke.



Opportunities to connect with district businesses along with statewide workforce and economic partners was a valuable outcome of the conference. One opportunity is the connection of the Vice President of the International Business Development Division of WEDC to connect with Gateway, Carthage and Parkside to see how to leverage students with the current opportunities they are offering.

Robin Hoke and Michelle Talhami attended WTED group in Wausau at Northcentral Technical College. The group is comprised of divisions of technical colleges which work to directly service the business community through workforce and economic development. Best practices are shared at these meetings in an effort to build a more collaborative and efficient group to serve the businesses of Wisconsin. As a result of the meeting BWS was able to visit with Madison College, and will visit with Waukesha Technical College in April. The sharing of processes and best practices raises the standards across Wisconsin.