



News release

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**Gateway lauded for its work
with first-generation students**

Gateway Technical College's work with first-generation college students has been recognized nationally, as FirstGen Forward recently announced the college will be added to the FirstGen Forward Network for 2025-26.

According to the group, Gateway was selected as a FirstGen Forward Network Member because it demonstrated commitment to improving experiences and advancing success for first-generation college students.

"Through the applications processing, it was clear that Gateway is not only committed to supporting first-generation students, but also prepared to invest in long-term, strategic efforts that create environments wherever these students can truly thrive," said Stephanie J. Bannister, vice president, FirstGen Forward.

Institutions join the Network through a competitive application process.

"This award is not just about Gateway, it's about every first-generation student who dares to begin, shows the resilience to continue and finds the determination to succeed and complete the program or certificate," said Tammi Summers, Gateway Technical College vice president, Student Services.

“We celebrate their courage and accomplishments every day, and we remain steadfast in our promise to walk alongside them as they shape a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities.”

Gateway served 14,718 students in the 2023-24 Academic Year of which 37.8 percent are first-generation college students, according to the most recent data.

“That’s 5,563 trailblazers who are the first in their families to pursue higher education, breaking barriers and building brighter futures,” said Jomarie Coloriano, Gateway director of Student Support Services.

To learn more about FirstGen Forward, go to firstgenforward.org.

Gateway Technical College’s mission is to deliver industry-focused education that is flexible, accessible and affordable for our diverse community. The college collaborates with communities in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties to ensure economic growth and viability by providing education, training, leadership and technological resources to meet the changing needs of students, employers and communities.

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