



News release

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**Gateway lands grants, puts college
on forefront of geoexchange training**

Gateway has placed itself firmly on the forefront of geoexchange technology by landing 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 geoexchange industry.

The national grant would specifically address the need for qualified earth drillers by funding curriculum development, which would equip students with the proper knowledge and expertise to drill for geoexchange systems. There is a shortage of qualified geoexchange drillers, and Gateway is the only site in the nation to offer training in this type of drilling.

While the Gateway-developed curriculum would be national, Gateway would be the first to provide it to students.

The curriculum to be developed would provide for a certified process for geoexchange technology -- specifically drilling -- which could be used as a standalone associate degree program or incorporated into existing college programs such as heating, venting and air conditioning technologies. Gateway

has a year from receiving the money to finish the curriculum, to be developed by two instructors from the college.

A shortage of qualified earth drillers is preventing the widespread adoption of ground source heat pumps. Making a drilling curriculum available at a technical community college also would allow underrepresented groups to enter the field. Recruitment of unemployed, underemployed and dislocated workers, including minorities and females, is a project priority.

In addition to expanding training for students, the program would possibly open other opportunities for Gateway in the future, such as becoming a geoexchange program training center for instructors from other colleges.

UW-Parkside will partner with Gateway in this effort, as well as Alliant Energy, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2dx2, Baroid Industrial Drilling products and Ferris State University.

For more information, contact Tom Niesen, (262) 564-2610.

Gateway Technical 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 challenging needs of students, employers and communities.

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