



Media release

July 12, 2011

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**Gateway hosts statewide, communitywide
commemoration as first technical college in America**

America's economic engine can be fueled through the education delivered at technical colleges – the same skills and training delivered by the colleges and their predecessors for the past century.

That message was delivered by a number of speakers Tuesday afternoon to the 400 attending the commemorative program on Gateway Technical College's Racine Campus during a celebration of its 100th anniversary as the first publicly-funded technical college in America.

"America is in an economic war and education is our primary weapon," said Snap-on Incorporated chairman and CEO Nick Pinchuk. "Technical education is more important today than ever before."

Business, education and government leaders attended and spoke at the event, focusing many of their comments on the need for today's technical education to give workers the skills they need to succeed in the workplace. They celebrated the birth of technical education in 1911 in Racine and its subsequent impact on the state and America since then.

“The skills needed may have changed over the years, but our mission and vision have remained the same – to link educational training to the workplace,” said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

Some of the day’s events include:

Future First Summit. Several business and industry leaders held the summit in an effort to produce a white paper focusing on the skills and framework needed for technical colleges to continue to provide quality educational training and advance our economy.

Many of the central themes of the discussion focused on the importance of creating or continuing strong partnerships between industry and education; the need to train workers at high skill standards; and changing the college success model to focus as much on whether students successfully enter a career as if they obtain a degree.

SC Johnson donation: In recognition of Gateway Technical College’s 100th anniversary, SC Johnson donated \$100,000 to the Gateway Technical College Foundation, Inc. to support student scholarships.

The donation is being used to create an endowed scholarship fund for Gateway students enrolled in any associate degree program. Up to five, \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded annually.

Walk ... to the future. Nearly 170 walkers went on the seven-block walk commemorating 100 years of technical education.

Flickr: The public is welcome to visit Gateway’s Flickr page to view photos of the event at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gatewaytechnicalcollege/collections>

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 changing needs of students, employers and communities.

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