Gateway poised to meet higher education challenge

Gateway Technical College is well poised to handle the response to President Barack Obama’s appeal to Americans to earn at least one year of post-secondary education. It’s a call, and outcome, that we at Gateway believe can help our communities and country as it navigates the waters of our current economic situation.

There’s been a renewed call to action for investment in jobs – and that investment begins and becomes a reality at Gateway. We provide students with innovative training to help them chart their future, whether it be to add to their current career skill set or offer them the new skills leading to a new career. We are future makers.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided nearly $4 billion to prepare adult, youth and dislocated workers for green jobs and other emerging industries. Gateway has trained students for the careers of today and those which are emerging, and now is no different. We’ve
created programs to prepare students for the jobs of the future in “green” careers and other emerging jobs, infused energy sustainability concepts in our curriculum, and worked to ensure our equipment is modern and provides real-world training. These efforts address the need for high-wage, high-demand careers in a number of programs such as geothermal and a torque program, relating to wind power generation.

We take the need to train our workforce seriously and to help meet President Obama's higher education challenge. These next few years truly could mark a defining moment in the impact technical colleges have on its students, the workforce, and the communities we serve.

It's a challenge we are up to.

Gateway signs historic transfer agreement with UW-Parkside

Officials from Gateway Technical College and UW-Parkside signed an historic agreement which will expand a student’s education and career opportunities by allowing a block of 30 general education credits to be transferred from Gateway to the four-year university.

This is the first time a block of General Studies courses can be transferred to UW-Parkside without the student having completed a Gateway degree. The 30-credit General Studies Transfer Certificate offers students a less expensive way to earn their general education credits as they eye a bachelor’s degree at UW-Parkside.

“Our philosophy on transferring credits is one of quality, not quantity. We want options for our students which give them the most credit possible for their success in our rigorous general studies curriculum,” says Zina Haywood, Gateway Executive Vice President/Provost Academic and Campus Affairs.

“We are well aware of the high quality bachelor's degree programs at UW-Parkside and are encouraged, appreciative, and excited about this new agreement to articulate our General Studies Transfer Certificate. This agreement will benefit Gateway Technical College and UW-Parkside. This is our first transfer agreement of this type with any college or university – but hopefully not our last.”

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The agreement calls for the transfer of credits to go into effect immediately.

Gateway hosts first DynoDay competition

Gateway hosted the AG Tractor DynoDay competition, gauging a tractor’s strength on a power take off (PTO) Dynamometer. The stationary machine evaluated a tractor’s horsepower, revolutions per minute and torque, which will determine pulling power out in the field.

The certified machine offers a comparison between tractors as well as giving owners a true picture of their tractor’s capacity to work in the field.

Several farming seminars were also held at the same time, including: biodiesel fuel and its impact; testing biodiesel; GPS steering and calculation; weighting and ballasting; and diesel engine technology.

Bryan Albrecht oversees national policy summit

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht helped direct the Association for Career and Technical Education’s National Policy Seminar earlier this month, which focused this year on the importance of career and workforce training within the context of the new presidential administration and Congress.

Albrecht is the national ACTE president and oversaw the policy seminar as part of his official duties. ACTE is the nation’s largest not-for-profit association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. It provides advocacy, public awareness and access to information, professional development, and tools that enable members to be successful and effective leaders.
Students, staff benefit from trip to Germany

Four accounting students studied the differences between accounting rules in the United States, Germany and International Accounting Standards. They also gained other experiences, as well -- ones that will benefit them in their future careers, during a recent exchange trip to Germany.

Gateway accounting instructor Jill Buchmann; Jeff Robshaw, Gateway Vice President, Learning Innovation and Chief Information Officer; Gateway’s resident German instructor, Tom Kennedy; and the students traveled to Germany as part of the ongoing exchange program between Gateway and Kaufmännische Schulen (K-S Hanau). Buchmann and the students studied the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) method used in the United States; the HGB, or German accounting standards; and the International Financial Reporting Standards, or IFRS. Students also visited the European Central Bank, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, and several local companies.

Robshaw went on the trip to install audio and video equipment that was awarded as part of a Gateway Inspiration Grant and to promote Web-based communication technologies that will facilitate greater interaction in the times between student exchange visits. The use of Web-based communication channels, along with the Web cameras and headsets, will promote greater cultural exchanges, opportunities for learning and improved planning for the exchange program. Administrators, faculty, and students on both sides of the exchange program will benefit from enhanced communication enabled by these technologies.

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Students take honors at statewide culinary competition

Four Gateway Technical College students earned honors at the Wisconsin Restaurant Expo 2009’s College Culinary Arts Competition. They competed in the cold food competition of the event held earlier this month in Milwaukee.

Louis Aulozzi (Kenosha), Donald Hurlbut (Kenosha) and Michael Udell (Racine) won silver medals for their beef tenderloin dishes while Austin Marchant (Racine) took home a silver for his inside round steak dish. Silver is second place in the competition.
The students’ entries in the cold plate portion of the competition were judged based on appearance, presentation and creativity. They gained real-life experiences as the professionals gave them a realistic view of whether their dish could be a viable menu item in a Wisconsin restaurant, and whether a restaurant would be willing to serve that dish once food and staff cost and time are calculated.

Job fair provides opportunities for job-seekers, employers

The 18th Annual Walworth County Job Fair increased employment opportunities for 840 job-seekers and addressed workforce needs of 23 employers on the Elkhorn Campus earlier this month.

A total of 72 percent of those who responded to a survey at the job fair live in Walworth County communities. Job-seekers came from Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and Florida to the event which is put on by Gateway and the Walworth County Job Center.

The annual event represents a one-stop place for job-seekers in many categories to look for a job – full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary positions were available, and employers from a range of industries were represented. It was also a place where employers connected with applicants.

Gateway marketing students continue winning ways

Gateway Technical College’s Marketing and Management Association-Kenosha organization captured first place in the Wisconsin Marketing and Management’s Outstanding Chapter Award for the fourth straight year at the 48th Annual Competitive Events Conference held in Madison earlier this month.

This marks the 11th time the Kenosha chapter has won the state chapter of the year award since 1990.

A total of 35 Gateway students qualified to compete at the International Delta Epsilon Chi Competitive Event Conference April 22-April 25 in Anaheim, Calif.
Students who took first-place honors, and the categories they won:

- Laura Funk (Pleasant Prairie) and Keli Mielke (Kenosha), Advertising Campaign
- Christian McWhinney (Kenosha) and Ted Matelski (Racine), Business-to-Business Marketing
- Jody Simpkins (Kenosha) and Michelle Slagoski (Kenosha), Financial Statement Analysis
- Erica Gloria (Kenosha), Retail Management
- Ron Schoolcraft (Kenosha), Human Resource Management

Toyota USA donates vehicle to Automotive Technology program

A donation from Toyota USA will help Gateway Automotive Technology students train on today's advanced onboard technology.

Toyota USA recently donated a 2008 Toyota Highlander V-6, 4-wheel-drive. The vehicle will be housed at the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology and will be used to train Automotive Technology students, including the latest in diagnostics.

The vehicle will help train students to enter the workforce locally as well as nationally.

Gateway Foundation to host annual golf outing fund-raiser

The Gateway Technical College Foundation will hold its 15th Annual Gateway Scholarship Golf Classic on May 21 at Meadowbrook Country Club in Racine to raise money to increase opportunities for Gateway students.

The event begins with a noon shotgun start. Cost for the event is $175 per person which includes lunch, dinner, complimentary soda, water, 18 holes of golf, golf balls, a goodies bag, greens fee, cart, and prizes. Dinner and auction-only tickets cost $35 per person. Group sponsorship tickets are also available.

Register your group by April 17 to be eligible for a Captain's Prize. Registrations will be limited to the first 144 paid golfers. A new improvement is the capability to register online with a credit card.

To donate prizes, become a sponsor or for more information: (262) 564-2866, Foundation@gtc.edu www.gtc.edu/foundation
Proceeds from the annual event will benefit the Foundation’s student scholarship program.

Gateway kicks off first Machine Repair Boot Camp

Remodeled space on the Racine Campus will help provide workers with the skills to land jobs in a soft economy – and for companies to obtain workers to keep their manufacturing lean and productive.

Gateway began its first Machine Repair Boot Camp on March 26 with 18 students. This program helps dislocated and underemployed workers by training them in the fundamental mechanical skills necessary for entry level work as a machine repair technician. This is a rigorous, 19-week program. Gateway received a $94,185 federal Department of Labor WIRED Demonstration grant to develop and deliver the boot camp. The program will also provide employers with a training program to upgrade the skill level of incumbent workers.

“Our programs are employer-demand driven, so despite a downturn in the economy, this is one area which is still looking for skilled and trained individuals,” says Ed Knudson, executive director of Gateway’s Workforce and Economic Development Division. “They will be able to enter the job market and hopefully land a job quickly.”

Gateway offers MSSC training to help employees, employers gain skills

Gateway Technical College will offer another round of Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification (MSSC) training, a program which will enable employers to build the core knowledge and skills needed in advanced manufacturing among their employees.

Certified instructors will lead the new program to begin April 7. The training includes lectures, self-paced studies, computer-based simulation labs, presentations as well as individual and group activities focused on MSSC training. MSSC is a nationwide system of training, assessment and credentials, based upon industry-defined, nationally validated, federally endorsed MSSC standards.

For more information or to register: Lisa Kober, (262) 564-2498, koberl@gtc.edu
Each of the four modules is 16 hours long, plus assessment time, must be taken in succession and costs $70 per module. Substantial funding for this series, valued at $500 per module, is provided by a state grant.

The program will continue a commitment to offer MSSC training. Gateway just completed a series of MSSC skills training workshops, in which all nine students passed the four-part MSSC program.

Gateway seeking industry input on logistics training

Gateway officials and 25 members of local industry – ranging from global companies to third-party logistics providers -- met to outline and determine the logistics needs of local companies and how the college can create training to best meet those needs.

Gateway is gathering input from local companies to develop a curriculum for the training, which will result in a logistics Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification program. It may be added to a current Gateway program, depending on industry input.

Logistics is the part of the supply chain process that plans, implements, and controls the efficient flow and storage of goods, services and related information. It does so from the point of origin to the point of consumption, in order to meet the customers’ requirements.

Gateway to host free Second Life workshop

Gateway Technical College will hold a free workshop on Second Life 4 p.m. April 7th at the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant.

Second Life is an internet-based virtual reality platform where many businesses and community organizations from around the world are now building new online spaces for creativity, collaboration, commerce and entertainment. Those interested should RSVP to Debbie Davidson at davidsond@gtc.edu.
You may email questions or comments about Community Connection to Jayne Herring at herringj@gtc.edu or Lee Colony at colonyl@gtc.edu

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