Gateway builds skills for your future

While the need to create jobs is, of course, an important component in putting workers back to work and kickstarting our economy, a second key initiative must be the reduction in the widening gap between worker skills and employer needs.

We need to provide industry-driven credentials to meet labor demands locally, regionally, and nationally. Technical colleges such as Gateway can provide worker training for those credentials – which are portable and industry certified.

Why is skill building so important? One of the most crucial issues facing education and labor leaders today is the current and impending skills gap. The gap is being driven...
by several factors—both real and perceived: the approaching mass exodus of baby boomers, the negative stigma of manufacturing and technician jobs, and the misperception of technical colleges as a viable educational option.

The skills and knowledge training that prepare workers to earn their credentials can be delivered at a technical college. At a news conference in June, President Obama announced a major expansion of Skills for America’s Future, an industry-led initiative aimed at dramatically improving industry partnerships with community colleges and building a nationwide network to maximize workforce development strategies, job training programs and job placements.

Gateway is one of the colleges participating in this initiative. We deliver the education and skills that lead to industry-created competency levels that will ultimately help workers and the economy.

Gateway to offer OSHA Safety Day

Gateway Technical College will host Safety Day, a half-day event designed for employees and managers of small businesses to learn about safety and health requirements and improvement techniques for their workplace. The event will be held 7:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. March 14 at the Conference Center on the Racine Campus, 1001 S. Main St.

The event includes a continental breakfast, welcome by the co-sponsors and three sets of breakout sessions with two choices per set. Sessions include OSHA record keeping, accident investigation, inspecting your facility, hazard communication, lockout/tagout and workers compensation 2012. Vendor booths will be featured including those of the co-sponsors, safety and personal protective equipment and economic development groups.

The morning will end with a boxed lunch and networking opportunities. Cost is $15. The conference is co-sponsored by OSHA, WisCon and the American Society of Safety Engineers.

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CNC Bootcamp 13 begins training

Gateway has begun its 13th computer numerical control (CNC) boot camp, an effort that helps dislocated and underemployed workers by putting them through a rigorous program to teach them to be CNC machine operators.

Students leave the 14-week, 40-hour-a-week program with the technical skills and industry certifications to land a job, or to apply the 14 credits earned toward a Gateway CNC Production Technician technical diploma.

The program meets employer demand. At the Boot Camp 12 completion ceremony in December, several employers were on hand to interview participants and offer them positions. Some participants had already secured jobs prior to the ceremony. CNC machinist positions continue to be at the top of manufacturing employers’ difficult-to-fill list at companies throughout the Gateway district. Graduation is set for April 13.

Gateway signs memorandum for entrepreneur effort

Gateway signed a Memorandum of Understanding with eight other partners for the city of Racine initiative Launch Box partnership.

This collaborative initiative of small business assistance and service providers will serve entrepreneurs in Racine with a proactive business development strategy that focuses on moving Stage One (two-to-nine-employee) companies that are poised for growth and success into Stage Two (10-to-99-employee) companies.

Gateway's role in Launch Box will be a collaboration of business resources including: CATI Business Services, BizSquad, and Student Business Incubator working to assist Racine businesses with various business needs which range from commercialization assistance, logo design and accounting assistance.
College president begins student-centered video blog series

If it’s exciting, new or shows a different perspective at Gateway – and it happens at the college – it very well may be featured in Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht’s monthly video blog.

The blog features student experiences, highlights programs, college initiatives and events such as international education, student government and student reflections on the new academic year. Albrecht has also aired a segment where he participated in hands-on training scenario with a team of Gateway EMS student and will soon release a video blog on service learning.

Gateway releases sustainability plan

Gateway Technical College has released its sustainability plan which outlines the college’s accomplishments in the area of sustainability as well as its plan to make it an even more sustainable institution.

The plan outlines Gateway’s responsibilities under the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, its first greenhouse gas inventory, its achievements to date and plans for the future in six key areas including energy, transportation, buildings, policies and education.

College Goal Wisconsin helps students navigate financial aid process

College Goal Wisconsin – to be held at all three of Gateway’s campuses – can assist students and potential students navigate the financial aid process with hands-on help by providing access to free information and financial aid experts.

The Gateway events will be held in conjunction with the statewide effort to be held at 29 locations Feb. 18-Feb. 19.

- It will be held 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 18 in the South Building on the Elkhorn Campus, 400 County Road H.
- It will be held 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Center
for Bioscience and Information Technology on the Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Ave.

- It will be held 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Great Lakes Conference Center in the Racine Building of the Racine Campus, 1001 S. Main St.

College Goal Wisconsin is an event designed to be an approachable way of learning how to apply for financial aid and get individual assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the federally required form for students seeking financial aid such as grants and loans. Students and parents are encouraged to attend together, where appropriate.

Gateway Technical College will host another in a series of its popular brown bag lunch discussions, focused on helping veterans discover the educational benefits and services they are able to obtain through the Division of Workforce Development and Gateway.

The series in March will feature disabled veterans outreach program representatives David Schwenk and Anthony First speaking on job search strategies, from beginning a search to discovering hidden job markets in the area. Gateway will also offer insight on how veterans can make their Gateway education successful, and Gateway counselors who work with veterans will be on hand for questions. Time will be allotted for questions from the audience.

Attendees are asked to RSVP for the event, and the format of the event encourages them to bring a lunch to eat if they wish. Refreshments will be served.

- March 7, Room A102 of the Academic Building on Gateway’s Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Ave. Please RSVP to Judy Obermeyer at (262) 564-3082 or obermeyerj@gtc.edu.
- March 8, Great Lakes Room of the Conference Center on Gateway’s Racine Campus, 1001 Main St. and at Gateway’s Burlington Center, Room 122. The event will be held at the Racine Campus and broadcast live at the Burlington Center; attendees in Burlington will be able to ask questions and interact with the presenters in Racine. RSVP to Vickie Adams at (262) 619-6444 or adamsv@gtc.edu.
- March 9, Room 112 of the South Building on
Gateway’s Elkhorn Campus, 400 County Road H. Please RSVP to Barb Janaszek at (262) 741-8514 or janaszekb@gtc.edu.

Gateway hosts national leadership broadcast

Internationally-known psychologist Linda Papadopoulos, at a nationwide broadcast hosted at Gateway, outlined to audience members how to enhance their positive image and increase their attractiveness and likability by developing the necessary social skills to do so.

Dr. Papadopoulos’ presentation, “Learning To Project The Person You Really Are,” was broadcast from the Madrigrano Auditorium of the Conference Center on the Kenosha Campus, part of a 280-site broadcast at National Society of Leadership and Success colleges across the United States, of which Gateway is a member.

The combined national audience numbers were an estimated 37,000. The Gateway presentation was sponsored by Gateway’s Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success as well as the college’s district advisory activity board. This is the first of three national broadcasts to be aired from Gateway Technical College, including by Kevin Carroll on Feb. 28 and Mel Robbins on March 20.

Gateway begins offering concealed carry weapons permit course

Gateway Technical College has begun offering a training course for those wishing to obtain a concealed carry weapon permit in the state of Wisconsin. The training meets the requirements of the state’s new concealed carry law.

Gateway law enforcement academy instructors and local law enforcement training officers provide high-quality, hands-on Wisconsin Department of Justice-certified training. The course is eight hours, which exceed the DOJ’s recommended number of hours to receive a concealed carry license. It gives attendees time to familiarize themselves with handguns and shoot one on a live range as well as in computer simulated settings or the use of air soft weapon scenarios used to train police officers.

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Students will be trained to take a DOJ conceal/carry test, which they must pass in order to receive a completion of training certificate from the college.

Courses will be held at the following locations:

**Kenosha Campus**, 3520-30th Ave., Room T113 in Technical Building (two sets of courses):

- Feb. 14 and Feb. 16, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Course number 504-465-3K1A
- Feb. 25, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Course number 504-465-3K1B

**Walworth County Range**, N6637 Hodges Road, Elkhorn:

- Feb. 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Course number 504-465-3Z1c

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**Gateway Interior Design students compete again at NARI show**

Gateway Technical College Interior Design students Linda Murphy (Lake Geneva) and Jennifer Juszkiewicz (Rochester) competed in the room design event at the 50th Annual Milwaukee/NARI Home Improvement Show.

Murphy and Juszkiewicz competed against teams from Milwaukee Area Technical College, Waukesha County Technical College and Mount Mary College.

The focus for the teams this year was to design a dining room in a specific time period or theme. Murphy and Juszkiewicz selected an arts and crafts/mission style for their theme that “combines arts and crafts with a contemporary flare for today’s lifestyle,” they say. Interior Design instructor Nancy Williams presented the NARI design challenge to students in the fall semester. Murphy’s and Juszkiewicz’s design was chosen to represent the college by professional designers and Gateway alumni Cynthia B. Wilson and Dorothy McMillan.
Applicants, recipients, increase at Foundation ceremony

Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. at its annual award ceremony awarded 133 scholarships totaling nearly $73,000. The scholarships benefit Gateway students, helping them fulfill their career and educational goals.

“Gateway students are remarkable contributors to our community – and it’s wonderful to see how our community gives back to so many through the scholarship program,” said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

The Foundation experienced increases in all areas of its scholarship efforts this year. The number of applicants rose from 264 in 2011 to 452 this year, the number of scholarships rose from 120 awarded in 2011 to 133 this year and the amount of money awarded to recipients rose from $59,532 in 2011 to $72,575 this year.

Senator says college provides real-world training

Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) told staff members and area business leaders at Gateway Technical College he’s encouraged to see the college’s focus on providing hands-on, real-world training that helps graduates succeed in the workforce.

Gateway administrators and its business partners demonstrated to Johnson how their collaboration with Gateway results in students receiving practical training on cutting-edge equipment and technology used in the workforce today. Specifically, officials from Trane and Snap-on Incorporated/Bahco demonstrated to Johnson how their companies have partnered with Gateway, including development of curriculum, equipment, tools and technology used in the heating, ventilation and cooling industry as well as related “green” careers.

Johnson said he supported the mission and work of technical colleges as well as their concentration on providing training to students to meet industry-supported skills and credentials. He said he agreed with the way colleges such as Gateway and business leaders collaborate in an effort to match the skill sets taught to future workers with what’s needed in industry today.
Gateway honors Baiyewu, King, Levie, at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event

Olatoye Baiyewu of Racine, Veronica King of Kenosha and Al Levie of Racine are the recipients of the 2012 Gateway Technical College Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award.

The three were honored at the 18th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Jan. 16 in the Madrigrano Auditorium of the Conference Center on Gateway Technical College’s Kenosha Campus. The three were selected for exemplifying the daily principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The keynote speaker for this year’s celebration was internationally known motivational speaker Dr. Earl Suttle. The 2012 theme was “The Dream – Make it Your Own.”

‘Renegade Gardener’ highlights annual WinterGreen conference

“Renegade Gardener” Don Engebretson at Gateway’s annual WinterGreen conference in January outlined his top 10 pieces of advice to reduce the number of gardening and landscape blunders made today, including properly testing soil and designing flower gardens based on height, variety and shape rather than color alone.

Engebretson, an author who has also spoken at groups across the nation, delivered two addresses, “Power and Permanence: Using Natural Stone in the Landscape,” as well as “Top 10 Gardening and Landscaping Blunders – and How to Avoid Them!” Engebretson was one of several landscape and horticulture industry experts who spoke at the conference.

Gateway donates computers to McKinley Middle School

Gateway Technical College donated 15 computers to Racine Unified School District’s McKinley Middle School, which will benefit students there as well as provide another means for taxpayer-funded equipment to be used for educational purposes.
Gateway staff members prepared the laptop computers to be used by the middle-school students, “re-imaging” them back to a base operating system setup which will allow teachers to use them for their own specific class and curricular needs. The effort provides an opportunity for Gateway to be sustainable by repurposing equipment and responsible to taxpayers by creating another means for the computers to be used by other educators. The computers do not fit the technology needs of the technical college’s programs but do still fit the needs of middle school teachers.

Gateway president joins community college advisory board

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht joined Corporate Voices for Working Families’ Community College Advisory Board to inform national-level business leaders on the needs of higher education institutions in order to successfully build strategic partnerships between the two sectors.

The Community College Advisory Board is a forum where higher education and national business leaders can interact, learn and share best practices on scalable solutions that provide working learners with the skills and education needed to succeed in the 21st Century. Corporate Voices created the Community College Advisory Board as part of its Learn and Earn initiative, which seeks to identify, promote and encourage innovative partnerships between employers and higher education institutions to help today’s working learners complete their postsecondary education while working.

Corporate Voices for Working Families is the leading national business membership organization shaping conversations and collaborations on public and corporate policy issues involving working families.

Gateway to host Skills USA competition

Gateway will host a regional Skills USA competition for high-schoolers Feb. 17 at three of its facility locations, featuring an expected 80 students from six schools competing in 11 different contest areas.
Gateway instructors will run and grade the contests, while Gateway students will assist the high-schoolers in a number of ways, including mentoring them as well as helping run the different events. Events include architectural drawing, automotive, electronics, job demo, prepared speech, promotional bulletin board, related technical math, team problem solving, technical drafting and welding.

High schools in the Gateway district slated to compete include Horlick and Badger. Gateway facilities to host the events include the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, Sturtevant; the Horizon Center for Transportation Technology, Kenosha; and the college’s Kenosha Campus.

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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