Gateway graduates inspire our future

With all the talk about Wisconsin's economy lagging behind and jobs hard to find, one might start to lose hope for the future. I'm not, and I'll tell you why. Every day as I walk through the halls of Gateway Technical College, I am encouraged and inspired by the hard-working men and women preparing themselves through education and training.

These graduates have met success at Gateway and beyond. A recent report issued by Wisconsin Technical College System stated that 88 percent of technical college graduates find employment within six months after graduation.

During the 2011-12 Academic Year, more than 23,000 students took classes at Gateway in courses ranging from welding or nursing to geoxchange technology and sustainable energy systems.

With more than 65 associate degree offerings and another 100 diploma and certificate programs, Gateway is the talent pipeline for Southeastern Wisconsin.

This month, Gateway graduated and welcomed another
1,350 technical college-trained professionals into our workforce. On behalf of our board, administration, faculty and staff, we salute each of our graduates and thank you, our community, for your support in building a strong community through education and training.

Burke keynotes Gateway graduation

Modine president and chief executive officer Thomas A. Burke delivered the keynote address at Gateway's Associate Degree and Technical Diploma Class of 2012 Commencement on May 15.

The ceremony recognized 1,376 candidates for graduation and 500 participated in the ceremony.

Burke was named to his current position, as well as a member of Modine's board of directors, in March 2008.

Other commencement highlights included the presentation of the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Gateway Technical College Alumni Association to Gary Krause.

Krause earned an associate degree from Gateway Technical College's Nursing program in December 1989. He is a registered nurse who has worked at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare System in Racine since graduation.

Krause developed Rapid-Cardiac Analysis Tools (R-CAT) and started his own health care products company, EKG Concepts.

Jenny Trick named to Gateway Board of Trustees

Jenny Trick, Mount Pleasant, has been appointed as the newest member of the Gateway Board of Trustees.

Trick, the deputy director of the Racine County Economic Development Corporation, was selected by the Appointment Committee for the Gateway Technical College District Board. She has already begun her duties as board member.

Trick's seat is a one-year appointment which ends June 30, 2013. It is to fill the seat vacated when board member Suzanne Henkel Deans resigned in January.
Gateway to host statewide workforce event series

Gateway Technical College will participate in a statewide event aimed at discussing Wisconsin's "workforce paradox," a time of high unemployment when manufacturers are still struggling to finding qualified workers.

Area manufacturers are urged to attend the event to be held beginning at 7:30 a.m. May 30 at Gateway's integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Center – formerly called CATI – 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant. The public is also invited to attend. Reservations are required, call (262) 564-3422 to reserve.

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Foundation President Jim Morgan will discuss the outcomes from listening sessions he's held with more than 300 manufacturing representatives across the state to determine what is causing skilled labor shortages across the state. His comments will be followed by comments from Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

The event is scheduled to last about 90 minutes.

National event spotlights Gateway's overseas partnership

Gateway's international partnership with a Moroccan college was spotlighted at a national conference of the American Association of Community Colleges in April.

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht featured the partnership at the conference presentation focusing on paving the path for workforce development and entrepreneurship through higher education partnerships. Albrecht focused his remarks on Gateway's efforts to create and successfully implement its automotive technology program curriculum—which has become a national model—at Ecole Superieure de Technologie Oujda in Morocco.

"Our partnership with Ecole Superieure de Technologie Oujda has changed the way we think, design and deliver training for the automotive industry," said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht. "At Gateway, partnerships serve as cornerstones to growth and our
Higher Education for Development partnership has initiated a culture shift within our faculty and staff for international collaboration.

Higher Education for Development (HED) provides USAID and State Department grants to Gateway to help it partner with Ecole Superieure de Technologie. HED manages a number of community college partnerships that are enhancing workforce development and entrepreneurship throughout the Middle East and North Africa region.

Gateway president named to national sustainability group

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht has been appointed chairman of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) task force.

SEED is dedicated to advancing sustainability practices and workforce skills at community colleges across America.

"I am proud of Gateway’s national leadership in sustainability and honored to use our community as a model for other colleges," said Albrecht.

SEED member colleges have committed to incorporating promising environmental practices and curriculum into existing and new workforce development programs. Gateway has excelled in this area by adding new education and training in such programs as Electrical Engineering Technology-Sustainable Energy Systems; Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology-Geothermal Technician; Civil Engineering Technology-Fresh Water Resources; Urban Farming; and coursework in solar and wind energy generation.
Gateway associate dean elected to statewide group

Diane Skewes, Gateway Technical College associate dean of Nursing, has been elected as president-elect for the Wisconsin League for Nursing.

Skewes earned her associate degree in Nursing from Milwaukee Area Technical College, her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Marquette University and her master's degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The league's mission is to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce.

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Gateway board approves iMET Center building name

Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees members passed a resolution to change the name of the current college facility, the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant, to the integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology (iMET) Center.

"The name change to the integrated Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Center will more accurately reflect the exciting Gateway programming offered now and planned for the future," said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht.

Gateway's Engineering Technology and Construction Sciences programs are currently taught at the facility. A flexible advanced manufacturing lab outfitted with industry-identified equipment will be added as part of an addition, allowing the facility to better serve the training needs of area manufacturers.

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Eight Gateway students take international honors

Eight Gateway Technical College marketing and business management students captured awards at the 51st Annual Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference held in April in Salt Lake City.

For more information: vernezzem@gtc.edu
Three students captured second place in two categories. Sarah Akey (Whitewater) and Nicole Rugen (Delavan) took second place in the Advertising Campaign category, while John Kaprelian (Racine) took second in Website Design. Fellow Gateway student Andrew Barnhill (Kenosha) also took home honors in the Website Design category by placing third.

Other Gateway students placed in the top 10 or captured individual honors, including Alex Calder (Kenosha), top 10, Sales Managers Meeting category; Mike Poletti (Kenosha), top 10, Professional Selling category; Jeanne Gomez (Racine), a finalist in the Human Resources Management category; Nicole Pagan (Kenosha), a medalist in Fashion Marketing Management.

Gateway student named to statewide board

Gateway Technical College student Sarah Joas, Kenosha, was elected to the Wisconsin Student Government state officer position of Administrative Financial Officer at the group's statewide meeting in April.

Joas, a Human Service student, is one of three officers who make up the student government executive committee.

Wisconsin Student Government calls itself "a strong statewide organization that opens the lines of communication between the 16 technical college districts. WSG addresses political and other issues that affect students, faculty, the system's financial concerns, and its existence."

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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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