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Attorney Joseph Jr. and his wife Kathy Madrigano believe in the power of education to change lives.

Couple believes in the power of education to change lives.



Gateway students and youth of all ages benefit from the support provided by Joseph Jr. and Kathy Madrigrano to scholarships and other college initiatives. One of those is the college's nature trail, made possible by the couple's generosity.

Attorney Joseph Jr. and his wife Kathy Madrigrano believe in the power of education to change lives.

For all of their lives they have believed in education. Joe and Kathy believe in a Gateway Technical College education. They believe in it so much that they've made sure others receive the same

educational foundation they were lucky enough to have – through scholarships, endowments and serving on the board of the Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. “It started with my upbringing at St. Mary Catholic Grade School, then St. Joseph High School, St. Norbert College and Marquette University Law School,” says Joe. “Where would I be without the fundamentals these fine institutions provided?”

Joe and Kathy, of Kenosha, have benefited Gateway students – and area K-12 students engaging in Gateway programs – in many ways, ensuring their educational opportunities and future. Joe has served as a Foundation Board member. Joe and Kathy have created the Joseph and Kathy Madrigrano Jr. Scholarship, an endowed scholarship for adult single parent- mothers. They have also sponsored the Madrigrano Sustainability Endowment, an endowed fund to support youth activities at the Madrigrano Center for Sustainable Living.

“Education benefits students in many different ways, including helping students to obtain a career and improve their self-esteem,” says Kathy. “If Joe and I can help someone get their degree we are elated, and ask, who knows where that degree will take the student? We feel that helping them out is awesome.”

Joe points out that all of his children have earned a college degree and have gone on to accomplish much with their education. “Your education is a great accomplishment in life – it something that can't be taken away from you once the degree is earned.”

Joe says he was moved to start up the scholarship because he saw – in the course of his professional experience – the hardships experienced by single mothers. He says he was moved to join the Foundation board when he saw the hard work and dedication of other members, and wanted to engage in the same outreach.

He says he also saw the dedication of the staff and faculty of Gateway College.

“When I encounter people in much of academia, which I say is not in the real world, and ask if something can be done, I sometimes hear ‘I don't know if we can do that,’” says Joe. “At Gateway, they say ‘we can do that – let's figure out a way to do this.’ That's always the response from employees of Gateway – I've had a great experience working with the people at Gateway.”

Kathy agrees.

“Giving back ... we are grateful to be able to do that. At Gateway, you have students who may be coming out of high school, or maybe seeking further education later in their life, and that's great. We hope we can motivate others to participate in Gateway Foundation through their kind contributions.



Jennifer Charpentier

Foundation fund recipients graduate 10% higher than the rate of the benchmark group.

A note from the executive director: Your gifts transform lives

Your thoughtful gifts help transform Gateway students' lives.

Thank you for your loyal support of Gateway's students through the Foundation. Because of the generosity of good friends like you, the Foundation was able to award more than \$105,000 in scholarships to Gateway's continuing students.

Let me share a few of our recent scholarship recipients' words with you:

"It's people like you that make it possible for people like me to go back to school and get an education to better provide for my family."
– Tiffany

"It is only because of your great kindness that I am able to continue my ... training." -- Travis

"Being selected for this honor humbles me and drives me to succeed even further" – Matthew

"Thank you for helping to get closer to my dream. I promise to give back to my community and make a difference in somebody's life." – Saamanta

You have helped Gateway students strive for their educational goals and complete the credentials they need to secure family-supporting jobs. We are all grateful.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to our continuing student application period.

If you have any questions or comments, I welcome your communication at any time. You can reach me at 262-564-2866 or charpentierj@gtc.edu.

Foundation immediate past board chairman: Foundation assists students committed to gain career

As chairperson, I serve as witness to the tremendous dedication my fellow board members express in volunteering their time. As the college drives local, state, and nationally recognized programs, board members are steadily steering to ensure the Foundation remains poised to assist where possible.

Thank you for your commitment to education and helping students acquire new skills. Through the generosity of our donors, financial support is the final enabler assisting many students over the graduation finish line. After the personal sacrifices, but unswerving determination, scholarships and emergency grants can mean the difference between achieving their dream and seeing their future slip away.

The student community is a source of inspiration for all who witness the effort in achieving new heights. Despite many odds, the stories of success abound both in personal satisfaction and connections to respective employers seeking new talent. The instructional staff is equally inspiring in their support of student development. The Foundation is proud to coordinate scholarships for the student community and make Inspiration grants available to the instructional staff for innovative learning experiences.

Being part of a winning team is a feeling we all cherish. The Foundation is committed to working with the college, students, instructors, employers, and the community at large in helping Southeast Wisconsin be a vibrant place.

Together, we are seeing how investment and partnership make the future come alive.



Stanley Manning
Immediate Past Chair

Scholarship holds great meaning for student



Mark Short

Mark Short initially sought computer numeric control machining as a second career after being laid off from his downtown Milwaukee job, because of his love of math and numbers.

High enrollment numbers, though, caused him to pause and consider another route. He held to that love of math and numbers for his new job career path, but in a completely different career – accounting.

And, it was the love of Gateway’s Accounting program and its associated student group, Business Professionals of America (BPA), which makes the scholarship he was awarded that much more meaningful to him.

Through the Gateway Foundation, Mark was awarded the Gladys Renick Scholarship, which is awarded to students enrolled in a business program. The award was set up in honor Renick, the former Gateway instructor as well as longtime BPA adviser.

Mark has immersed himself in BPA, serving on its student leadership board at the college as well as statewide levels. He was also one of the members who worked to bring innovative community projects for the group to engage in, and competed at BPA events statewide and nationally.

Mark said he didn’t initially realize the connection of the scholarship to BPA – but was honored when he did.

“I had contacted another BPA state officer and was telling her how excited I was to win the scholarship,” he says.

“I remember telling her whose name was on it. That was an exciting moment, because from the first month I began at Gateway, BPA has been my second home and family. My goal has always been to help build the chapter up, to help increase its membership – and then to be honored with the scholarship in Gladys’ name was very special. It was an honor.”

Mark says the scholarship helps him with drawing down his student debt and the amount of money he will need to repay student loans once he graduates. “This also helps to free up some money for other expenses I have right now that would have been committed to tuition,” he says.

Mark came to Gateway seeking the skills to a new career after finding himself out of work following layoffs by his company in the health insurance industry.

“I knew I had to do something, I had to gain some skills for another career – and the rest is history,” he says.

“... to be honored with the scholarship in Gladys’ name was very special. It was an honor.”

– Mark Short

Caring instructors, a student club where he can interact with fellow students while learning more about his career, and affordable education are some of the positive attributes of Gateway, Mark says.

Mark hopes to enter the workplace upon graduation but also continue his education, with a goal of becoming a CPA.

Student appreciative of scholarship that helps her continue to pursue her dream



Sheika Miner

Sheika Miner was sure of her dream to earn a Gateway Technical College degree and better her life and career.

There was only one thing of which she was unsure: whether she could continue to pursue that dream.

A lack of finances had stalled Sheika's efforts, and she faced the reality of taking off one – or maybe two or more – semesters to save up to pay for her college costs. She didn't want to take off that time,

worried it would take her even longer to earn her degree and enter her career.

Her academic counselor suggested a solution: Apply for a Gateway Technical College Foundation scholarship. She did. On the brink of having to cancel her classes for the semester, Sheika found out the answer to her application and marked it with tears of joy.

"I honestly don't know if I would still be enrolled at Gateway now without the scholarship," she says. "It helped me to continue on and pursue my dream."

Sheika was selected for the Joseph and Shirley Madrigrano Human Services Scholarship.

Sheika says she decided she needed to earn a degree to gain a solid career. She attended in 2006, but left when she became pregnant. The shock of her brother's death in 2008 made her realize she needed to return and seek a career.

Even though she worked while she took classes, she still received Financial Aid – but realized after four years, she could

*"I honestly don't know if I would still be enrolled at Gateway without the scholarship."
– Sheika Miner*

not receive any more. She would have take off time from college to save up for college. "I said 'I can't take off, I just can't – I have to finish my degree and enter my career,'" she says.

The Foundation paid for a class and a book needed for the class – and kept her in college and on track to graduate in December 2014.

"I am just so appreciative that I received that scholarship," says Sheika. "I didn't want to stop. I was worried if I did ... I thought I could come back in a semester, but who knows?"

Her journey began with tragedy. Her brother was shot and killed in 2008 and "I knew I had to do something, I knew I had to do something with myself, and the best way to do it was at Gateway."

"I knew if I wanted a better job, I needed a college education," she says.

Sheika chose Gateway. She says the instructors were encouraging, the training rigorous and the college offered many ways for her and other students to succeed.

"Several of my instructors have tried to help me to be a better student," she says. "The tutoring center helped me with some of the tougher classes. I tell everyone and anyone that Gateway is a great place to start your education and career."

She says she chose Human Services because she likes to help people. She's glad the Foundation helped her, too.

"I am just so appreciative," she says. "That helped me with my education and career."

Graduate gives back to education through Gateway Foundation



Michele Randall

Gateway Foundation Volunteer/Board member

Michele Randall was seeking a new way to give back to her community.

She turned to her roots to accomplish her goal.

Gateway Technical College is a family affair for Michele. She earned a Gateway degree in 1996, which helped her gain the skills to succeed in her career – which now includes

co-owning her own financial services business. Her husband and her mother are Gateway graduates. Her sister and aunt currently teach at the college.

When Michele began to consider how she could volunteer and give back to the community, it was natural that she turned to education – and to Gateway. Connecting with the Gateway Technical College Foundation became a way for her to meet her goal to give back to her community, and with an organization she firmly believes in.

“I was quietly looking for a new volunteer opportunity,” says Michele. “Folks had approached me with some nice offers, but when I really thought about it, I came to the conclusion that education is a way to meet some of the challenges currently facing Southeastern Wisconsin.

“What do people need to improve their lives? Education. Access to education is very important, and even more so when you see the economic challenges we face today. It is never wasted.”

Michele began by working with the Foundation’s annual golf outing in Spring 2014 and then joined the board of directors.

“The Foundation can provide access to education to individuals who might not otherwise have those opportunities,” says Michele. “Gaining a scholarship and education can open the doors to a career, build self-confidence and improve socioeconomic status.

“In hearing the stories of past scholarship recipients, what stood out to me is that education and a scholarship can have an effect on a family for generations. The Foundation provides access and those benefits, as well as providing awareness in a community to those benefits.”

Michele herself has seen the effect Gateway has had on her life, and members of her family. She was in the banking industry in the early 90s when a manager encouraged her to take some courses at Gateway. She took the courses, earned her associate degree in Banking and Financial Services, and her career progressed.

The degree from Gateway was her stepping stone to further education including a bachelor’s degree from Carthage College and a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® designation from the College for Financial Planning.

She worked for a regional financial services company prior to co-founding Randall & Pobar LLC – Your Financial Partners a financial planning and investment advisory firm, in Mount Pleasant, in 2012. Michele in 2003 – then Michele Thomson – was awarded Gateway’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

“The Foundation can provide access to education to individuals who might not otherwise have those opportunities.”
-- Michele Randall

Prairie Party celebrates Foundation donors

Thank you to our golf outing sponsors

The Foundation held a Prairie Party to celebrate donors and scholarship recipients at Gateway's Elkhorn Campus. Many attended the celebration

and toured several program areas, including Welding, Veterinary Technician, and Health Sciences Labs.



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Foundation helps student fuel career gain deeper value to her education



Zaida Hernandez-Irisson

Zaida Hernandez-Irisson was thinking ahead when she decided to earn a Gateway Technical College cosmetology degree to gain a first career – which would ultimately help pay for her second, lifelong career goal of becoming an engineer.

That lifelong career goal was boosted by four Foundation scholarships. This honor, Zaida says, deepened her commitment to succeed in her studies and provided the inspiration to keep going.

“The scholarships have helped me to value my education even more – because someone believed in me and invested in me,” she says. “It makes me feel like I’ve done the right thing to have also invested in myself.”

The Foundation awarded Zaida four scholarships over a two-year period: The Patrick & Rosemary Hoppe Scholarship, Women in Engineering Scholarship, Reusser Electronic Scholarship and the Star Ambassador Scholarship.

Fueled by skills gained through her first degree, Zaida worked full-time managing a barbering business while earning her Electrical Engineering Technology – Biomedical Engineering degree. She had tried to obtain Financial Aid to help pay for college so she could work fewer hours and have more time to hone in on her coursework, but it was not an option for her.

Seeking other ways to cover her education costs, and encouraged by instructors, she applied for a scholarship. That is when she received the Patrick & Rosemary Hoppe Scholarship.

“That helped pay for a class – I didn’t have to stress on how to pay for another class,” she says. “The Foundation inspired me to keep going, to focus more on my education. I was worried less about putting in even more hours at work, and more on my courses.”

A year later, the college accepted her application to participate in the college’s travel abroad program. The cost was \$1,500. She applied for another scholarship. “I know how much \$500 helped me, so I thought: How much can two \$500 scholarships help me?”

“I received three \$500 scholarships – the exact amount of money I needed to come up with to pay for tuition and participate in study abroad.”

That experience reinforced the skills she learned in the classroom, and made her realize that what she learned at Gateway could be applied if she worked in other countries, as well.

Zaida also was named Gateway’s Star Ambassador – the college’s official student college spokesperson to its

communities and the state – and spoke at the 2015 Spring and Summer Commencement ceremony.

There, she told her fellow graduates to believe in themselves, just as instructors and the Foundation believed in her. When they do, great things can happen, she said.

“At first, I didn’t believe in myself. But there were those at Gateway who believed in me – and look what I am doing now,” she said at the commencement. “I am graduating with an engineering degree and I am here today. Two years ago, I didn’t know English well, and now I am speaking at commencement.

“There were those along the way who saw in me what I didn’t. They pushed me, they helped me to advance. Believe in yourself, as others do.”

“The scholarships have helped me to value my education even more – because someone believed in me and invested in me,”
-- Zaida Hernandez-Irisson

Foundation Scramble May 2015: Thank you sponsors and golfers!



Scholarship Award Ceremony February 2015





Promotional truck. The inspiration grant to the Diesel Technology program will be used to build a Gateway Technical College promotional truck. The truck will help to promote the Diesel Technology program, and be used by students as training equipment. The truck will be fully functional and students will be able to take it apart and learn from the experience, as well as available to instructors to use for specific coursework.



Creating an inclusionary learning environment. Workshops were offered to Gateway staff and instructors, providing them with comprehensive diversity training as well as access to lending libraries with a focus on creating and sustaining inclusive learning environments. Each lending library will be housed in the college's district wide multi-resource centers.

Foundation Board members, Foundation Board committee members, scholarship application readers, event volunteers ... We could not help our students and fulfill our mission without you. Thank you for sharing your commitment to Gateway students and the community through your generous giving of your talents and time.

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New to the Foundation is a legacy society, the Red Hawk Circle. The Circle recognizes those donors who have made legacy plans that include Gateway Technical College Foundation in their will, a trust, life insurance policy, or other planned gift or have made an outright gift to the Foundation's endowment of \$50,000 or more.

In June, we recognized individuals who have made these plans with a celebration dinner.

Please contact Foundation executive director Jennifer Charpentier if you have any questions about the Circle or how you can leave a legacy for future Gateway students. Jennifer can be reached at (262) 564-2866 or charpentierj@gtc.edu.



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