

News release

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**Gateway involved in national
adult career pathways test study**

KENOSHA – Gateway Technical College is one of six technical colleges involved in a national study which will work to identify, enroll, educate and prepare underemployed adults for high-demand careers.

The effort will bring together manufacturing and logistics groups to determine the skills needed for their industry and how technical colleges can offer career pathways to adult students leading to jobs within those areas. Despite efforts by technical colleges and others to train skilled workers, national studies indicate that a lack of a skilled workforce is still the major challenge in nearly every industry and state.

Selected business owners in the Gateway Technical College District area have been asked to attend a July 17 summit with the Clements Group to discuss the disconnect between the need and availability of adult workers. Many adult workers don't see that connection – or career pathway – between technical college and good-paying jobs.

This summit will help to address that disconnect. Gateway will partner with the Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD) along with the five other colleges and industry leaders to implement Adult Career Pathways.

This program focuses on helping bring skilled workers to the labor pool by connecting them with the career pathways at a technical college.

The premise of adult pathways is to take underemployed workers – some who work three jobs to make ends meet – and train them to be able to land a skilled job of quality employment. Workers benefit by entering a solid career field and industry benefits by having more skilled workers.

These workers are typically older than the traditional high school graduate and may have completed some college work, or even graduated, before they entered the workforce.

After the July 17 summit, college officials will compile the recommendations and develop ways to reconnect the adult worker with a clear understanding of the skilled careers open to them through technical college training.

Gateway was selected as one of the colleges for the program because it has several of the adult pathway theories in place already, and has shown leadership in new and efficient workforce and economic development strategies.

The program will be implemented in three stages:

- A manufacturing and industry summit will be held and benchmarks set.
- Local and regional dialogue to define local needs and build partnerships.
- Implementation of the Adult Career Pathways program.

For more information, contact Debbie Davidson, Gateway vice president of Workforce and Economic Development, at (262) 564-3422 or (262) 914-0154 (cell).

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 challenging needs of students, employers and communities.

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