

Impact Program

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



IMPACT PROGRAM
Community Engaged Learning



Compiled by Impact Program Coordinator Sarah Marbes

Giving makes Gateway better

Learning is a multi-faceted and ongoing process. The skills students gain at Gateway are much more than what they learn through books, during a lecture, in a classroom or in a lab. We serve our students – and communities – best when we provide them with the soft skills and application of skills needed to succeed in their careers and their lives.

One way students gain these skills is through service learning via Gateway's Impact Program. This is where our students can apply what they've learned in the classroom to an actual, real-life work experience. And they learn the value of community service, too. In the meantime, community groups gain access to blossoming experts to help them better serve others. Service learning is a win-win for everyone involved.

I am so very proud of the 234 students who completed 20,066 service hours over the course of the 2022-23 Academic Year. The lives they have touched through that work, including their own, are immeasurable. These students come from a wide variety of programs, from Dental Assistant to Information Technology. In particular, I want to point to one specific project with the Building Trades - Carpentry program that made up nearly half of those service hours ... 9,500 hours were with Habitat for Humanity Racine to help reach their goal of helping families gain access to a home of their own.

This year, the program focused on some additional areas that received local and even national accolades. One was providing nonpartisan voter education so students could register and cast a ballot. Through the direction of program coordinator Sarah Marbes, the college was named a Voter Friendly Campus, one of 258 colleges from 38 states nationwide to receive this designation.

Another goal of the Impact Program was to address the needs of food insecure students. This has become a priority issue for Gateway – and higher education across the country – to address. Sarah Marbes helped to connect Gateway with Kenosha's Grace Welcome Center for a food pantry on our Kenosha Campus, which offered boxes of food to students and the public.

Thank you to the greater Gateway community for your support and continued engagement in building a better tomorrow for all of us.

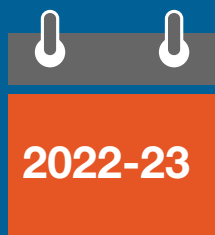
Sincerely,



Ritu Raju
President and CEO
Gateway Technical College



**This
year
in
numbers**



- 2022-23: **234** students completed **20,066** service hours
- Cumulative Impact Since 2011: **5,381** students completed **86,833** service hours
- **139** Gateway graduates earned recognition as Service Scholars

The Impact Program

Mission Statement

The Impact Program fosters opportunities for engagement that encourage active learning, meaningful service, and cognitive reflection.

Through these activities, students develop a deeper awareness of the diverse community in which they live, skills that will serve their future careers, and an understanding of the value of civic engagement and their role in the community.

Values

Within the Impact Program, we value:

- Learning opportunities that encourage growth both personally and academically
- Diversity in opportunities and experiences
- Intentional connections between community and campus
- Purposeful links between theory and practice in action
- Well-rounded, dynamic learning opportunities that encourage each individual to recognize their role in a larger community



Serving Students

The Impact Program strived to help students meet their basic needs.

- Students can find resources for low-cost health care, food pantries and more online at gtc.edu/student-resources
- FINAO, Inc. bought a pop-up food pantry to the Racine Campus in November
- Student Life, the Multicultural Resource Center and the Impact Program distributed holiday meal kits for enrolled students in December
- Grace Welcome Center provided ready-to-go food boxes at the Kenosha Campus and Horizon Center throughout spring semester alongside monthly pantry pop ups.

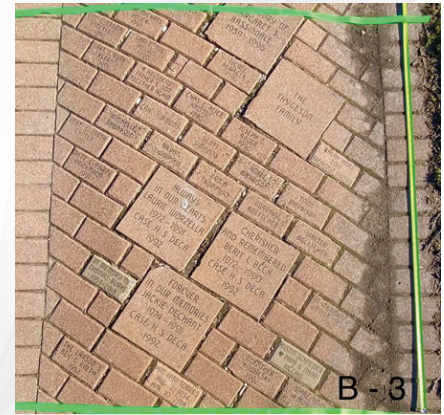
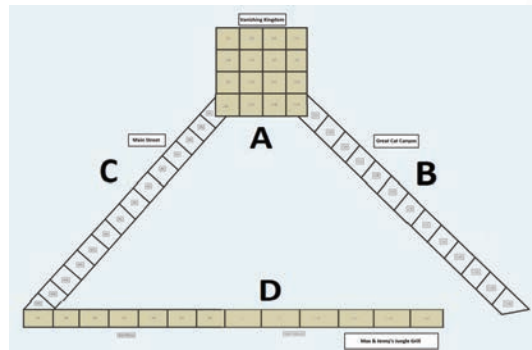


Computer Support Students Bring Their Talents to the Zoo

Each spring, Gateway's IT Project Management class teaches students project management from the information systems professional perspective. Students develop their skills and understanding through team-based service projects with community organizations.

This year, one of the groups partnered with the Racine Zoo to develop tools that enabled zoo staff to track and easily locate commemorative bricks that have been purchased by zoo supporters over the years. The students, Brice Stirmel, Chris George and Trevor Gott, cataloged and mapped the bricks by hand and then digitized the information with Excel and floor planning software.

"Some of the highlighted things we learned was to use our strengths, communicate through the whole process, keeping all the digital information in one location, using various applications to be more efficient, and overcoming unforeseen obstacles by finding solutions," the students shared. "All of these helped us complete the brick database for the zoo on time."



Service Days

MLK Service Day

For Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a group of Red Hawks volunteered at ELCA Outreach Center in Kenosha. The ELCA Outreach Center offers a wide range of services that help families and individuals meet everyday basic needs and move toward self-sufficiency. The volunteers sorted donations that the organization gives to people in need.

Earth Day

Gateway's Earth Day celebrations included service projects to help the environment.

More than 20 students volunteered to help with a project to stabilize the bank of Pike Creek. Volunteers removed invasive species and cleared other debris. This is part of a five-year project to protect Pike Creek and improve the health of our watershed.

IT students and members of the G-CPU club ran e-recycling programs for community members to safely dispose of electronic waste.



Physical Therapist Assistant Students in Action

Reflection by Elisabeth DeFoe

I was initially very nervous about going into the assisted and independent living facilities. It was the first time I was going to put the skills I had been building into practice on an actual person.

At Mercy Housing Independent Living, my classmates and I were each assigned a resident who volunteered to receive a personal exercise/therapy session custom to their needs. I initially doubted myself going in. I tend to be shy, so working with someone one on one felt intimidating.

I was assigned to a man with posture and balance issues who would benefit from overall strengthening. I noticed that while he did enjoy exercising, he was mostly there for socializing. We would work on a set of exercises for his balance, and during his rest period he would tell me about his life at the independent living site and what it was like before. He unknowingly made me feel at ease with the session. He quickly became my favorite part of those rotations.

On his first day, he was not able to stand on one leg while holding the other up for more than two seconds. By my last week with him, he was able to stand on one leg for a few seconds at a time while lifting his opposite leg higher and higher. I loved seeing him increase his strength, but I mostly loved seeing him have fun.

In class we talk about how to make our patients feel comfortable and how to be adaptable. We must be confident and trust in the skills we've been developing. But practicing with my friends in class is not the same as working with a real patient. This experience made me step out of my comfort zone and gave me an idea of what to anticipate when I graduate and start working in the real world.

Reflection by KC Ketzer

Fulfillment, appreciation, improvement, gratitude and care. These are all things I experienced during my time at the assisted and independent living facilities.

Working with someone on my own for the first time at the independent living facility felt like my first real challenge as a PTA. I worked with a resident who was right hand dominant, and last year she fell on her right arm and broke something but never had surgery or physical therapy to rehab it. Her goal was to put her right hand on top of her head without using her left arm to assist her. My instructor Traci suggested some soft tissue mobilization to help release some of the tension causing her limited range of motion. After 15 minutes of massage, I was able to move the resident into a little more range of motion than before. I taught her a shoulder abduction exercise that she could perform at home.

The next week I wasn't sure what to expect. Tuesday came and the resident said she had to show me something. She was able to put her right hand on top of her head without any assistance from her left hand! She was so excited that she did it three more times and asked Traci to watch. My first breakthrough!

Overall, my time at both facilities was incredibly rewarding. In such a short time, I was able to help improve the function and daily activities of a lot of people. It makes me excited to see what my future holds in the upcoming semesters and how I'll take this experience with me and use it for my next patient. This will truly be an experience I'll always be thankful for and one I'll never forget.



Annual Health and Wellness Fair with Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha

For nearly two decades, several programs have worked together to host the health and wellness fair – a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha – where children visit the college to learn about healthy habits and careers they may want to enter someday.

This year's event, held February 10 on the Kenosha Campus, featured Gateway students from Dental Assistant, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Barber Technologist and Cosmetology programs working with Boys & Girls Club children to learn about healthy habits.

“They are learning about whole health and wellness in a fun environment,” says Dental Assistant program director and longtime event organizer Heidi Gottfried. “For example, they learn how to properly brush and floss their teeth and make good nutritional choices.”

Children received an oral exam from a professional dentist and Dental Assistant students, learned healthy handwashing techniques from Nursing students, had their nails painted with Barber/Cosmetology students and participated in an obstacle course with Physical Therapist Assistant students, among other activities.



Voter Friendly Campus

Gateway Technical College has been named a Voter Friendly Campus for its voter education work on campus.

Gateway is one of 258 colleges from 38 states nationwide to receive this designation by NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and the Campus Vote Project.

The Voter Friendly Campus program is designed to help institutions address the challenges “that prevent college students from participating in the political process and foster a culture of democratic engagement on their campuses.”

People from offices across the college and throughout the district worked together to build and execute Gateway's voter action plan. Through events and outreach, Gateway provided nonpartisan voter education to help students recognize their civic power and make their voices heard.

Impact Fellows

Gateway launched its Impact Fellows program - a training series for students to build community leadership skills. The group met online for one hour a week for six weeks. Community leaders joined the sessions to talk to students about problem-solving, storytelling, building partnerships and more.

Len laquinta Scholarship

Established in 2004 by Len laquinta, this annual scholarship is awarded to a student dedicated to service or club participation. This year's recipient was Danisha Moten.



Designing Homes, Building Skills

Robert Kaebisch's classes participate in service learning to build students' skills. Alexis Bell reflects on the project with Habitat for Humanity and answers the question: What did you get out of this service experience?

"This project taught me how to design outside of my personal preferences and organize my design based on the clients requests. I believe that is why I was able to do well on my home design.

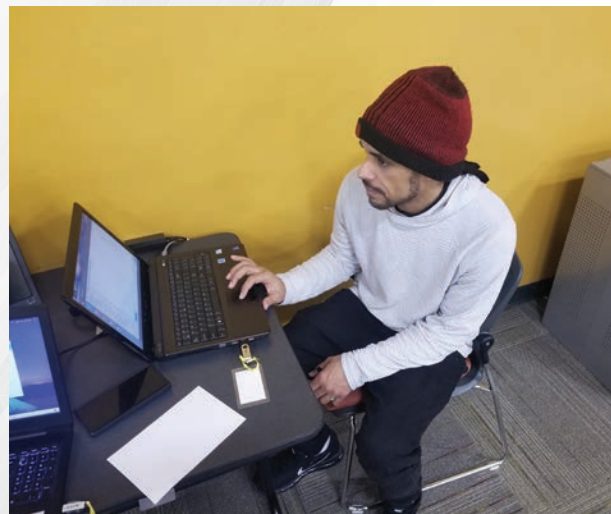
In this project, I was able to learn more in Revit, a designing software. I hope expanding my knowledge in Revit advances potential career opportunities.

Working on this class project with Habitat for Humanity was a different experience from previous assignments since my class was able to receive feedback as we progressed from members of Habitat for Humanity. Although it was nerve racking, I appreciated hearing what areas I was doing well in versus areas that needed improvement."



Student Clubs Make a Difference

- Culinary Club baked cookies – 20 dozen! – and donated them to Empty Bowls in Racine.
- dig.IT, a club for IT students, held three Community PC Clinics this school year. The students met with each customer to determine the reason for their visit to the clinic. Students generally worked in pairs to solve issues and often tapped into everyone in attendance for advice.
- G-CPU, an IT club, volunteered at Gateway's Earth Day events to help the community recycle e-waste.
- The Student Nurses' Association hosted a blood drive in honor of Johanna Pascoe, a Nursing graduate who passed away shortly after graduation.
 - **Registered Donors/Signed-In: 57 donors**
 - **First Time Donors: 28**
 - **Through the 54 units collected, over 146 local patients will be impacted.**
- Gateway Gives Back participated/volunteered for the following events:
 - The group attended Gateway's MLK Day of Service at ELCA Outreach Center in Kenosha.
 - In February and March, students participated in Special Olympics Fans in the Stands at basketball tournaments. Students made signs and cheered on participants from local teams and other teams that needed support.
- The Team EXCEED Club made and donated six blankets to a local cancer center.



Thank you for staying engaged this year.

We want to highlight those faculty and community partners that communicated their projects with us this year.

Partner Faculty and Staff

Maxwell Banor, Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences • Richard Barribeau, Communications • Ericka Bernhardt, Finance • Jennifer Charpentier, Gateway Foundation • Sandra Christman, Barber Cosmetology • Colleen Connolly, Communications • Jomarie Coloriano, Inclusive Excellence • Oliver Debe, Gateway to Success • Debra Dosemagen, Nursing • Shari Due, Information Technology • Beth Dugan, Hospitality Management • Heidi Gottfried, Dental Assistant • Traci Gotz, Physical Therapist Assistant • Courtney Greve, Horticulture • Dawn Haggerty, Library • Debby Joling, New Student Services • Robert Kaebisch, Civil Engineering/Structural • Betsy Kennedy, Library • Wendy Klemp, Information Technology • Takis Kinis, Information Technology • Lindsey Kosman, Student Life • Susan LaCanne, Graphic Communications • Marilyn Loor, Student Services • Heather Miles, Information Technology • Trina Muscarella, Student Life • Paul Nelson, Information Technology • Sue Nelson, Barber Cosmetology • Kenneth Riley, Gateway Promise • Aaron Schauer, Urban Forestry • Ali Schultz, Horticulture • Renee Seymour, Nursing • Suzanne Sublette, Sociology • Gerrit Tichelaar, Horticulture • Joshua Vollendorf, Compliance • Jayme Wisneski, Marketing

Partner Organizations

Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha • ELCA Outreach Center • Every Child's Place • Habitat for Humanity Kenosha • Habitat for Humanity Racine • HALO, Inc. • Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum • Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc. • Kenosha Public Library • Lakeland Humane Society • Open Arms Free Clinic • Racine Zoological Society • Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network • Shalom Center • Sharing Center • Special Olympics Wisconsin • United Way of Kenosha County • United Way of Racine County • United Way of Walworth County • Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin • Westosha Senior Center • Women and Children's Horizons



Questions? Contact Sarah Marbes at 262-564-3138

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