



GATEWAY  
TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE

FOUNDATION



# Foundation Access

Summer 2020 • Volume 6

# SC JOHNSON DONATION BRINGS HOPE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY PANDEMIC



*“We hope this investment from SC Johnson will help Gateway break down barriers to employment and make a long-term positive impact on our community.”*

-Fisk Johnson, chairman and CEO of SC Johnson

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted many people this year as their lives changed abruptly in March.

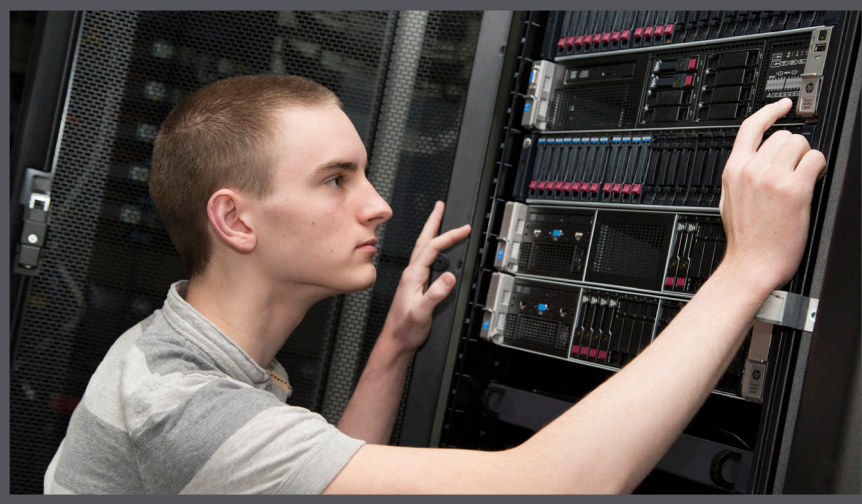
For some, that meant the loss of their jobs. SC Johnson saw that need, though, and has donated \$539,660 to the Gateway Technical College Foundation to support Gateway in providing the skills and training for students to earn a workforce certificate. The program is expected to have an annual economic impact of \$5 million on Racine County.

The contribution will support the HOPE program – Highly Skilled Occupations for Professional Employment. The program is dedicated to helping dislocated workers regain the skills necessary to compete for jobs in career paths such as construction, advanced manufacturing, information technology and health sciences.

“A critical barrier to employment and career advancement is the lack of technical skills needed to succeed in the workforce. We are grateful for the generosity and support provided by SC Johnson to embrace hope and opportunity for our entire Gateway community,” said Gateway Technical College President and CEO Bryan Albrecht.

“Gateway’s program goes beyond job training and equips students with the tools they need to succeed after graduation by connecting them to career guidance and job placement,” said Fisk Johnson, chairman and CEO of SC Johnson. “We hope this investment from SC Johnson will help Gateway break down barriers to employment and make a long-term positive impact on our community.”

The HOPE training program provides funding for tuition, fees, industry credentials and job placement services. It will support 156 students to earn the certificates.



To learn more about how you or someone you know who has been displaced because of COVID-19 can participate, please go to [gtc.edu/hope](https://gtc.edu/hope)



# GRADUATE FUELED BY DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS, FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



LaShon Stevens knew his work history and skills made him employable, yet he found himself on the hunt for a position months after a layoff that had sidelined him and his coworkers alike.

He knew he needed more education to get back into a career and decided to enroll at Gateway Technical College.

His journey to enroll at Gateway and complete his degree is filled with moments of self-realization – including a focus to help others in the city he loves and calls home.

It's also one that was fueled by the Gateway Technical College Foundation. LaShon was awarded the Alfred & Bernice DeSimone Endowed Scholarship in 2018 and the To The Finish Line Scholarship in 2019.

“The scholarships helped me and help others,” says LaShon. “I think it helps to increase that awareness in the community that there is hope because of the scholarships.

“I understand it is something that is funded by donors, and I want them to know that they helped me to continue my education. They brought hope to me and the community.”

LaShon's first program he enrolled in at Gateway was the Facilities Maintenance program because it was an area he was familiar with and something he enjoyed.

A few classes into his college education, LaShon realized what he really wanted – to open his own business. A few classes into that and he had another vision – he wanted his business to provide hope in Racine.

“I realized while I was in the Facilities Maintenance program that my real passion was to rehab houses and open my own business to do that, as well as property maintenance.

“This has morphed a few times over the years. I have a passion for people and believe rehabbing homes will help others. My ultimate goal is to help others to re-enter the community by working side-by-side with them to rehab their own home.”

LaShon earned his Business Management associate degree in Spring 2020 and looks forward to his career – and helping others. He said that he believes the Foundation inspires so much hope in others that he would like to create his own endowed scholarship some day.

“I aspire to give to the Foundation and would like to start my own scholarship some day. It brings hope to a community.”

**“I understand it is something that is funded by donors, and I want them to know that they helped me to continue my education. They brought hope to me and the community.”**

-LaShon Stevens

# SMALL STEP ENDS IN GREAT SUCCESS FOR STUDENT LEADER



Megan Bahr has reached heights at Gateway she didn't even dream of when she first enrolled at the college.

Now she represents the college locally, nationally and to students here at the college itself – and part of that dream was fueled by the Gateway Technical College Foundation.

“My original intention was to go to college, stay a semester, complete my general education requirements and then move on to a four-year college,” says Megan. “The longer I spent at Gateway and the all the amazing people I met, I decided to stay at Gateway and earn my associate degree.”

Since then, Megan has done so much more than that. And the Gateway Technical College Foundation, and its donors, played a strong role in Bahr's meteoric rise to not only working to complete her degree – but becoming the student voice of the college to area communities as well as being named a prestigious national fellow.

Bahr received the Albrecht Family Scholarship as well the Gateway's District Ambassador Scholarship. As District Ambassador, Megan is considered the official student voice to college administrators and area communities. The Albrecht Family Scholarship was established by Gateway President Bryan Albrecht and his wife, Lisa, in 2014 for students active in student activities at Gateway.

"These scholarships have helped me to continue my education here at Gateway, and I want to thank those who've donated to them. I love the college and can't wait to go back on campus to see everyone in person. I love it here," says Megan.

Megan's presence has been felt nationally, too. She was named to the Campus Compact 2020-21 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. Students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities locally, nationally and internationally. Megan is the first Gateway student to be named a fellow.

The Professional Communications student was named as the college's 2020-21 District Ambassador and, as such, is the voice of the students to the college and community as well as serving as the student representative on the Gateway Board of Trustees.

"I heard about the Campus Ambassador position a year ago. I wanted to apply for it, but didn't think I could do it. Well, one thing led to another, I became a United Student Government officer, a peer advocate and decided to try for it. I still sort of am in shock that I was named ambassador.

**"I hope to be able to share my story with others and empower them to reach for their dreams."**

**-Megan Bahr**



# UPDATE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



During this challenging time for our entire community, we continue to be available to support our students and the college. Gateway students have been tested in many ways over the past months and have shown their adaptability in a big way. We have been proud to be a resource for them.

Given the uncertainty around when we would be able to gather in larger groups again and in the best interest of public safety, we changed the dates of our fundraising events in 2020. Our annual Foundation Scramble was moved to the beginning of September. Our 2nd annual Innovation Celebration will be held in November rather than in September as originally scheduled. Please save the date for Saturday, November 7 when Gateway Foundation Presents: Innovation Celebration To Go -- our online offering of our event. We look forward to sharing more details with you.

As I mention challenging times and uncertainty, I am very aware of the key role Gateway alumni are playing on the front-lines in our community's response to the pandemic. From health care professionals, first responders, auto and diesel mechanics, facilities management, IT professionals and so many others – Gateway alumni are critically important to ensuring our community's best possible outcome.

This is a time when we can choose to focus on the negative or choose to be grateful every day for all the good that will come of this critical time in our collective history. At the Foundation, we choose gratitude. Gratitude for the opportunity to help Gateway students and initiatives at the college, for our generous donors who ensure our ability to respond to changing needs and for Gateway faculty and staff who work diligently to help us focus on the areas of greatest importance.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Randall".

**Michele Randall**  
**Foundation Board Chair**





During these times of uncertainty, my heartfelt hope is that you and your loved ones are healthy.

Student after student shares with us that they are in college because of the support they've received from people like you through the Foundation. Whether you attend a Gateway Foundation event or make an outright donation, you help Gateway students reach their dreams and transform the community for generations to come.

I am grateful for your dedication to Gateway students and the community. Thank you

I know so many community members are living with uncertainty—like concerns about income, health or loved ones. These are unsettling times in varying degrees for us all. Particularly on my mind these days are our students.

The college and the Foundation remain committed to serving Gateway students.

Thinking of our students, let me share some updates with you if you have not already heard about them. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, the campuses are currently closed except for necessary hands-on instruction, and college faculty and staff continue to provide instruction, resources and assistance to students virtually.

As of the writing of this column, the Foundation's staff continues to work from home. We are fortunate we have this capability. We are able to respond to both voicemail and email. We appreciate your patience as we are now able to process and print and mail formal acknowledgment letters weekly.

The Foundation continues to offer its Student Emergency Funds as well as its ongoing scholarships. We anticipate increasing demand for these funds over the coming weeks.

Your support of Gateway students and the community through the Foundation remains vital.



**Jennifer Charpentier, PhD, CFRE**  
Executive Director

# MORGRIDGE CONTRIBUTION HELPS FUEL PPE FOR FRONTLINE HEALTH CARE, EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORKERS

Gateway Technical College's Industrial Design Fab Lab staff members have been busy testing, modifying and producing equipment used by first responders and others on the front lines of fighting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

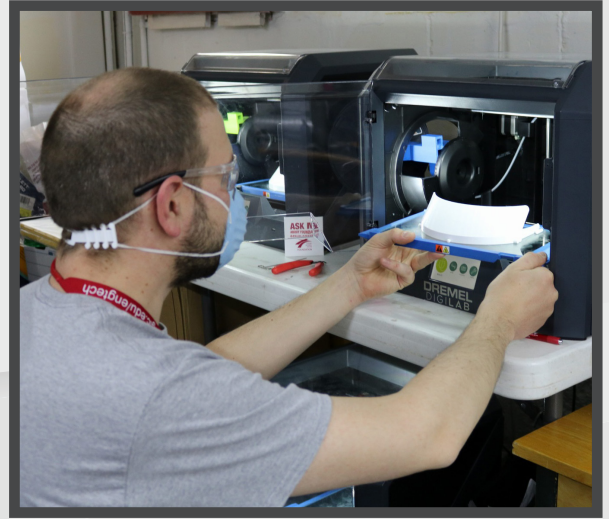
Fab Lab staff members John Zehren and Adam Reed moved 3D printing machines and materials to two alternate locations just as the college shut its buildings in March and have stayed busy since then by designing and testing personal protective equipment (PPE) products.

Fueled by a Morgridge Family Foundation grant, they've produced masks, ear savers and face shields for first responders from throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

"In this time of national crisis, we need to come together to do what we can for our local community," said Matt Janisin, vice president, Gateway Business and Workforce Solutions. "We have the talent, the resources and products to help emergency responders, and we are doing what we can to see specifically in what areas we might be able to support them."

Zehren, Fab Lab coordinator, and Reed, Fab Lab technician, started their work in late February on two project designs, a mask and face shield, which are being looked at by health care officials to see whether they can be used during this emergency. They continue with their design work on those pieces.

Zehren and Reed have produced and delivered **272 masks, 1,128 face shields and 12,655 ear savers** to be used by area first responders and front line health care workers. Thanks to generous donors, this totals more than **14,055 pieces** of PPE equipment that has been deployed to help our community.



## Morgridge grant impact, by the numbers:

Masks  
produced

**272**

Face shields  
produced

**1,128**

Ear savers  
produced

**12,655**

Total number of PPE pieces  
produced frontline workers

**14,055**

For more information: [zehrenj@gtc.edu](mailto:zehrenj@gtc.edu)

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI DOUBLES HIS CONNECTIONS TO COLLEGE



In this double-double year of 2020 for graduates, it seems natural that Roger Zacharias be named as Gateway Technical College's 2020 Distinguished Alumni.

Roger has two very distinct connections to the college, both showing his progression to leadership as a student and then as a professional in his career.

Roger began his career in Gateway's carpentry apprenticeship program, and it's one he's built over the years to include nearly all aspects of the industry, from swinging a hammer himself to representing hundreds of carpenters who work on projects throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

His connection to Gateway doesn't end there – Roger returned 14 years later to the same college he graduated from to serve as a Board of Trustees member. He's served the board for the past 16 years, including president in 2007-08 and again in 2010-12.

"The training I received at Gateway gave me the skills to be a good journeyman carpenter," says Roger. "Being on the board has helped me to grow my leadership capabilities, whether I am serving on the board as a trustee, chairman or vice chairman."

Roger began his educational journey in August 1987 by starting his apprenticeship courses at Gateway. "I liked working with my hands and working with wood," says Roger.

After entering his career as a union carpenter, Roger then started running jobs until he became the business representative for Racine County and Kenosha County union carpenters, a position he's held since 2002 in varying degrees.

He was urged to apply for the Gateway Board of Trustees from a cross-section of trade union members. "It's an honor to know that you are part of that success and the success of the college, our communities and our business partners."

Roger notes that he has been helped in his educational and career journey by his wife, Barb, and their two children, Charles and Samantha.

# CHANGING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



# Your generous support of Gateway students through the Foundation helps transform their lives each step of the way.

Sharing joy and celebrating success: Gateway Technical College Foundation, at its annual award ceremony Feb. 1, awarded 256 scholarships totaling nearly \$210,000 and benefiting 225 students – seven more than last year – by helping them fulfill their career and educational goals.

“We are grateful to our Foundation donors, especially our scholarship donors, who choose to make a difference in students’ lives through their education, and our volunteers, who tirelessly review our scholarship applications,” said Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Charpentier. “We are pleased to honor our students every year at the ceremony.”

The Foundation saw a significant increase in the amount awarded this year – \$50,000 – in part from several scholarships such as the Kopper Family Foundation and Gene Haas Foundation.

# GATEWAY FOUNDATION THANKS OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful to all our volunteers who help read scholarship applications, staff and speak at our events, lead the Foundation through Board and Committee service, and give service as Alumni Association volunteers.

## Thank you to our volunteers who have helped in FY 2020:

Carol Aiken  
John D. Andreoli  
David Arnone  
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Angela Dos Santos Ganaway  
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Michele Randall  
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GeorgAnn Stinson  
LaShon Stevens  
Richard Unger  
Cherry Wardrip  
Charles Wasik  
Gary Wendorf  
Michele Whitfield  
Terri Wruck



We make every effort to include a complete list. If you currently volunteer with the Foundation and we missed your name in the list, Jennifer Charpentier wants to know. Please email her at [charpentierj@gtc.edu](mailto:charpentierj@gtc.edu) or call 262-564-2866.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the Foundation, please reach out to Jennifer at the email or telephone number above.



# SAVE THE DATES



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Kenosha, WI 53144

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Empleador y educador que ofrece igualdad  
de oportunidades

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Permit No. 431

## *Innovation Celebration* Saturday, November 7, 2020

The Gateway Foundation Presents: **Innovation Celebration to Go** on Saturday, November 7, 2020. The Innovation Celebration originally scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020 will now be “to go” online in November. We hope you can join us online!



## **Foundation Scramble** Thursday, May 27, 2021

Save the date for the 27th annual **Foundation Scramble** to be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at Hawk's View Golf Club in Lake Geneva.



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