



## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

*March 16, 2017*

### **GATEWAY AS A LEADER**

February 16th was CTE National Signing Day. Gateway had about 400 students from 23 area high schools participate by signing a letter of intent to come to Gateway and pursue their career path. This event was streamed live via the NC3 website along with other NC3 member Technical and Community Colleges. Nationally, NC3 reported numbers:

- 40 Signing Day events were held on community and technical college campuses across the country, from Oregon in the west to Tennessee and Florida in the east
- 2,357 students signed Letters of Intent to pursue technical careers
- 4,980 people in all attended those 40 Signing Day events. This includes the signers themselves plus parents; instructors; college administrators; high school principals; and community, business, and industry partners and guests

Learn more or watch any of the recorded events at <http://www.nc3.net/signing-day/>

### **ACADEMIC AND CAMPUS AFFAIRS**

#### **Allied Health/Veterinary Sciences Division**

The Pharmacy Technician program has received three years initial accreditation from the ASHP/ACPE.

The certification exam for our Surgical Technology graduating seniors will be administered on the Kenosha Campus April 20. Their pinning ceremony is scheduled later that same day in the Madrigano Auditorium.

Our ACT for Healthcare grant staff is being visited by a team from CVTC on May 2 to check on our progress and share best practices.

Dean Mike O'Donnell will be attending the annual meeting of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in Atlanta April 23-24. Mike is the national Commissioner representing Vocation/Technical Education. The theme this year is "Quality Improvement vs. Quality Assurance: Can we be both Counselors and Cops?"

#### **General Studies**

General Studies faculty are beginning to create the workshops and courses they will be leading for the Promise Bridge—a college success skills workshop and a college writing mini-course. Faculty will also help with math remediation.

Dr. Richard McLaughlin (Science), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), had a manuscript accepted by the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology (IJSEM). The manuscript describes *Enterococcus croatali*, a new species of bacterium McLaughlin isolated from the fecal material of a timber rattlesnake.

Dr. Suzanne Sublette (Social Science) was invited to present at a conference organized by the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast. The Conference, called GIRL (Girls in Real Leadership), will be held on March 24 at the Knapp Community School in Racine. Jessica Gleason (Communications) will be offering Forensics for Summer Camp again this summer.

Finally, congratulations to Nicole Dutton, who was accepted into UW-Milwaukee's PhD program in Health Sciences. Dutton will start her coursework in the fall.

## **COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

### **Marketing and Communications**

It is a busy and exciting month. We are looking forward to greeting our new writer who begins March 15th. This means we will be refreshing a number of marketing materials that make up the foundation of our program of study information. This is especially important as we prepare for action steps coming out the Strategic Enrollment Management process concerning program marketing.

Preparation is underway for both the College Catalog and early stages of the Student Handbook.

Gateway, UW-Parkside, and Herzing University were all pleased by the more than 200 people who attended the joint Kenosha and Racine Business Blender. The theme was celebrating the Adult Learner and the importance of continuing education.

Work continues across the college and in our department to move forward the many Innovation Grant projects chosen for their potential impact on the way we do business and connect with our students.

The first of this year's Gateway environmental events, EcoFest Racine, is scheduled for March 18th 9am-1pm. This is the second year of this event co-sponsored by Gateway and Greening Greater Racine. Nearly a thousand visitors attended last year and we are hoping for similar or greater number of visitors to our Racine Campus.

### **Foundation**

As of March 1, the Foundation has raised \$818,554. The generous gifts were from individuals (including Gateway faculty and staff as well as alumni), corporations, service clubs, and foundations. Donors have contributed to areas such as the mission of the Foundation, student scholarships, the endowment, the Gateway Promise endowed fund, student emergency funds, and the Boot Camps.

The Gateway Promise Endowment Campaign has reached \$1,944,846.

The High School Scholarship application opened on January 18, 2017, and will close on March 10, 2017. Scholarships offered include the President's Opportunity scholarships (awarded one per high school in the district) and several other named scholarships.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Foundation Scramble will take place on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at Hawks' View Golf Course. Noon Shot-gun start. This year, as part of its voice auction, the Foundation will offer two tickets to the US Open at Erin Hills at the exclusive 1895 Club for Saturday, June 17.

Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Charpentier, PhD, has earned the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential. She joins 1 other CFRE in the Gateway District, 94 CFREs in Wisconsin and more than 5,500 world-wide.

### **Legislative**

There has been a variety of work being done with our legislators. The WACTE legislative seminar was held in late February and there were over 15 individuals (staff and students) in attendance at the event. Part of this event is spending the afternoon at the capital visiting with our elected officials. We were able to visit 10 of our legislators. During this time the students were able to share their stories about why they chose Gateway and what excites them about their educational opportunities at the college. This is always an important visit for Gateway. There is nothing like hearing directly from those that are impacted. This day also was the Statewide Student Showcase in the rotunda. This is an opportunity for all 16 colleges to set up displays and share their programs with those in the capital. Gateway showcased the student success workshops and representing us were Jomarie Coloriano (staff) , Xu Hue (student) and Manal Nabeel (student). We had a number of people visit our booth including Lt. Governor Kleefisch and Speaker Vos.

The ACTE National Policy seminar was also held in Washington, DC. This was an opportunity to discuss federal legislation with Senator Baldwin, Senator Johnson and Speaker Ryan and the impact that they have on our students.

### **Center for Sustainable Living**

This continues to be an unusual busy time for the Center. This month we have been working on many different displays in the kitchen along with the Energy Knowledge Center which is a room in the house. The plan is to have these completed prior to Earth Day in April. We are working on a large display project for the Bee Barn. This display will showcase many different aspects of bees as well as provide hands on learning activities for students.

We continue to host a number of groups. These are classes from our local schools along with girl scout troops from the tri-county area. This month alone, we have hosted 8 girl scout troops, two school field trips as well as an all day boy scout event.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Spring enrollment is currently down -5.2%. FY17 year-to-date is currently down -4.0%. Enrollment for summer has started. Summer enrollment is currently down -4.7% with student headcount up +1.4%.

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) Track Update**

Bill Whyte is working with the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, to complete an "airspace study" for the EVOC track at the Kenosha airport. It will take about 2 months. There was some turnover in the Bureau's office which has delayed progress but it will not create a problem for us.

### **Kenosha Campus Facilities Update**

The Kenosha Student Center and the Shooting Range will both open by April 1st. Both projects were delayed some for different reasons.

Gateway has received a payment from Focus On Energy in the amount of \$3,330. The check is in recognition of the energy efficient Kenall light fixtures installed in the new Law Enforcement Academy and shooting range.

### **Tax Incremental Districts (TID) Update**

More TIDs are being created including one in Paddock Lake, Pleasant Prairie, Mukwonago, and Racine. These are not coincidental but a result of the improving economy. We also have relatively new TIDs in Kenosha, Sturtevant, and Delavan.

### **Banking**

Gateway has selected a new bank! The College is in the process of transitioning from Wells Fargo Bank to Johnson Bank. Johnson Bank has been very supportive so far in the transition process. It is anticipated that the transition will be substantially completed by mid-March.

### **FY 2017-2018 Budget Update**

Executive leadership and budget officers continue to review and prioritize their FY17-18 requests. We continue to monitor assumptions for state aid and tuition as we will likely receive direction in the weeks ahead which will allow us to complete and prepare a preliminary balanced budget. This preliminary budget will be prepared for review at the April 13, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Grants Update**

We are in the process of developing budgets for new grant proposal submissions. Attendance to monthly webinars continues for Federal grants for important announcements. TACT 3-Sharepoint grant is finishing up this month and proceeding to closeout over the next 90 days. The team continues to update personnel allocations during the budget process. Staff are involved in additional training and implementation of the new software for the Foundation Department.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES & FACILITIES**

Bill Whyte presented the Workplace Dynamics results to the Racine Campus facilities employees in two separate meetings. There was an active discussion and many good observations.

The new automated Employee Evaluation Process training is underway with positive feedback. The new process will be much simpler and more efficient.

The HR function is going through a reorganization that will ultimately result in adding much needed functional capabilities with no increase in headcount.

John Frost and the other directors in the HR Division conducted the second HR Orientation for new employees on the Journey.

John attended a Management Resource Association (MRA) HR Roundtable on Strategic Planning / Succession Planning.

John also worked with Department Chairs to help develop department procedures, individual supervisor mentoring to develop proper strategies for handling employee situations needing improvements, and facilitated overload/underload finalization at record low levels.

Debbie Miller and Jacqueline Morris attended an MRA Employment Law Update specifically addressing FMLA, Social Media, and OSHA.

As required by OSHA regulations, the OSHA 300 Workplace Injury Logs have been posted on each campus. The OSHA 300 logs document our workplace injuries and the associated lost time or duty restrictions.

Conducted a Safety Audit of the Elkhorn Campus, with United Heartland and Districts Mutual Insurance (our insurance companies) to help promote safety in the workplace and correct any deficiencies.

Tom Cousino conducted a review with United Heartland and Districts Mutual Insurance (our insurance companies) of all our open Workers Compensation claims to get status updates and see what improvements can be made to prevent further injuries.

Tom provided a safety/security briefing at the Elkhorn Campus staff meeting on Walking Safe, Emergency Notifications, and different projects currently being developed.

He also coordinated with ALiCE Training Institute to develop our administration site for getting Active Shooter training out to all faculty and staff in late spring 2017.

Tom made preparations for the Clery Act Compliance Audit that will be accomplished by D. Stafford and Associates. They will be on site March 21- 23 to meet with us and review all compliance efforts. This is to help increase our compliance efforts and help improve our campus safety procedures.

## **INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

The votes are in for the 2016 Outstanding Employee Awards! Our panel of judges has reviewed over 100 nominations in ten categories, recognizing everything from customer service to innovation to strengths advocacy. The winners will receive their awards at our Red Carpet Reception on April 5. The IE division is pleased to coordinate the awards process every year.

### **Career Pathways**

As a component of The Right Signals (TRS) grant project, the Career Pathways Manager and NC3 Coordinator hosted senior leadership from the American Association of Community Colleges for a TRS site visit. AACC staff were provided with a tour of the Horizon Center and SC Johnson iMET Center and also met with George “Bud” Clarke from Snap-On. During the visit, the AACC team worked with Mike O’Donnell, Dean of Allied Health, and several Allied Health faculty on the identification of career pathways in health care programs using Lumina Foundation’s Beta Credentialing Framework. An update on our progress to date was also provided to the AACC staff, and several members of the ELC joined the conversation and shared their thoughts on the value of participating in the project. The AACC staff were very impressed with the college as a whole and the advancements made related to credentialing transparency as a result of our participation in the TRS project.

### **Employee Learning**

Beginning in July 2015, Gateway transitioned from Certification to Faculty Quality Assurance System (FQAS) for all faculty. With FQAS came several major changes, including applicability of credentialing to instructors who teach credit granting courses, reduced time frames for faculty to complete their FQAS requirements, and moving ongoing credentialing from Human Resources to Employee Learning. Existing faculty can complete any outstanding FQAS courses by July 31, 2018 while adjunct faculty have until July 31, 2020. New full-time faculty hired on or after August 1, 2015 have three years to complete their requirements and adjunct faculty have five years. Now that we are about a year and a half into the new system, a recent review showed that the vast majority of current full-time faculty have completed or are track to complete their requirements by the deadline. Employee Learning has recently reallocated funding to offer additional FQAS courses, has expanded credit for prior learning for FQAS courses, and has reached out to faculty regarding their specific FQAS progress via emails, and in the case of adjuncts, also through US Mail. The change from Certification and credentialing has provided Gateway with much more flexibility in competency delivery and programming that is better suited to the culture of our college.

### **Office of Quality Systems**

KC Jackson and Debbie Davidson presented Using Lean Six Sigma in Education to Drive a Culture of Excellence at the 2017 American Society for Quality Lean Six Sigma Conference at the end of February 2017. Their presentation showed off Gateway's success in building and sustaining a quality initiative by leveraging internal talent to drive process efficiency ultimately changing the organizational culture to be more quality focused.



## **LEARNING INNOVATION**

### **Distance Learning**

The implementation of Lynda.com within the Blackboard LMS continues with positive results. This feature allows instructors to build custom playlists and “pick and choose” appropriate content from Lynda.com’s huge library of video content. This ability to customize gives our instructors more flexibility as they add engaging, supplemental content to their courses.

Our implementation of Blackboard’s Collaborate tool, which provides synchronous online learning, continues to go very well. We have identified early issues between these tools and the Chrome browser and have resolved those problems. We’ve also tweaked our network settings to better support this tool. It provides another technology to support flexible teaching and learning options. This same technology can be used for webinar and live meetings for staff, as well as larger virtual conference type events.

We are currently working on developing next year’s VANguard schedule based on the interest and requests of our partner schools. Our partners are very pleased with the program and the support they are receiving.

### **Information Systems**

Implementing the DAAB (District Activity Advisory Board) online request and approval process.

Work on the system for reporting on and tracking Promise students is in progress.

Continued the troubleshooting of the changes to the student payment plan and their interaction with Self Service.

Implementation of Ellucian’s UI 5.0 is in progress. The 5.0 version uses pure HTML and removes the Silverlight plug in requirement for which browser support is dwindling (currently it isn’t supported by Chrome and Firefox will discontinue support in the near future). Set up and test the integration with Perceptive Content (which is the school’s document imaging system, previously known as ImageNow).

The Intelligent Learning Platform (ILP) implementation is in progress. The ILP is primarily an interface between Colleague and Blackboard that also enables other Ellucian products such as Advise, Mobile, and Portal to access and integrate with Blackboard information such as login activity, grades, and assignments. The initial roll out is scheduled for Summer of 2017. The initial roll out is only intended to implement the Colleague to Blackboard portion.

### **Information Technology - User Experience**

We sent 4 techs to the Brainstorm conference in the Wisconsin Dells. This conference is geared towards the education market, and over the past couple of years has expanded to the Higher Ed market. Our techs mainly focused on SCCM sessions, which is a deployment tool for Windows operating systems. Our beliefs were confirmed that Ghost, which is the tool we currently use, is horribly out of date and we need to look at a new deployment method. Based on this information, as well as talking to one of our vendor-partners, we will be evaluating SCCM and looking at another product from LANDesk that may be a full-featured computer service system, which includes patching, application deployment, ticketing, and other help desk functionality.

Deans Council has approved the migration to Office 2016 for classrooms and labs for the Summer semester. This is a great time approve this, as our techs are beginning to build images for the summer semester. Also, our industry partners are looking for our students to be familiar with Office 2016 and Office 365.

We are beginning plans for migrating to Windows 10 for the Summer 2018 semester. A number of techs, as well as a few faculty and staff members, have been running the operating system for quite a while. Windows 10 will make use of our new deployment methodology (either SCCM or LANDesk). We are also forced to make this change since new processors do not support Windows 7, 8, or 8.1.

We have changed how help desk calls are handled. Since about September, our campus techs have been receiving calls directed to the help desk when nobody was logged into the phones or a user waited more than 5 minutes. We have moved these calls over to PDS, as our techs were struggling with taking calls while working on user issues. PDS will call our techs when there is an urgent issue that's impacting classes. Otherwise, they will submit a ticket just as our local help desk does.

Techs have begun configuring and deploying new laptops to our users. We have an additional order submitted for our Engineering instructors and desktop computers for our labs.

We are working with VMware on our VDI deployment. We continue to have a number of USB issues that other customers do not have. We hope that some configuration changes, as well as upgrades, will help resolve these issues. VMware says that we should be able to have an experience that is very similar to a desktop computer.



We have added 250 licenses to our MDM solution, and those are quickly being used by our Chromebook deployments. This is a good thing, though, as we will be able to better manage these devices.

### **Information Technology - Technology Operations**

The Infrastructure Team has been busy keeping pace with the remodelling going on around the college. Additionally, we just turned off the last of the server room air conditioners in the Kenosha Conference Center server room. We have now all but eliminated the two server rooms in the Conference Center and consolidated to the primary server room in the BioScience building for the district. The energy savings will be significant as the AC unit in the Conference Center has exceeded its planned life cycle and has been replaced with a much more efficient enclosed rack system in the BioScience building.

Jeff Zellmer presented the latest-and-greatest classroom multimedia technology to the Kenosha Campus faculty and staff meeting. The highlight of the presentation was the new interactive whiteboard which is being installed in those classrooms getting a technology refresh. We received very positive feedback on this new technology from those in attendance.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS**

### **College Access**

The College Access office has been in planning mode! We're bringing all 1500 RUSD freshmen on campus for tours this Spring. High school freshmen will tour our Kenosha campus, and will receive presentations from Student Life, New Student Specialists, and various academic departments. We just finished a hugely successful National Signing Day, signing more than 200 seniors to Gateway. Overall attendance was 400 students, teachers, and families! The NSS are working with Promise students who need appeals, and will be focusing on Registration Days next.

### **Express Services**

Express Services recently shared a training day to learn about policy governance at Gateway, Colleague Access updates, Payment Arrangement Options, Registration Updates, and tour the new IT Center of Excellence. The Alternative High School in Elkhorn recently showed their appreciation for the Student Express Associates by bringing them a bouquet of flowers and lunch!

### **Financial Aid**

The Financial Aid Team has been focused on starting the 2017/18 Award year. Over the last two weeks we have accepted over 3400 FAFSA's into Colleague. During this process we complete a thorough review of each FAFSA and request additional documents from students to ensure that all information is in compliance with Federal Regulations. With the rollout as well, we have accepted over 300 new Financial Aid documents as well over the last week.

## **Student Accounts**

The Student Accounts department has been focused on ensuring a smooth transition to the new payment arrangement process for students. They have been following up with students to ensure they understand the new process and the benefits of enrolling on a payment plan.

## **Student Support Services**

For the Spring semester the Student Support Services team has launched a new workshop called: OUCH! That Stereotype Hurts!!! In the face of stereotypes, micro-aggressions and biased remarks, how should students and staff react when they hear or see things? This Student Success workshop focuses on how to build confidence and the communication skills to speak-up and interrupt disrespectful comments being made towards others. The workshop is being facilitated by Jomarie Coloriano, Mary Xiong and Dr. Tammi Summers and a total of 4 out of 6 sessions have been held district-wide. Each participant in the session receives a copy of the OUCH! That Stereotype Hurts book and other training materials.

## **BUSINESS & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students and Launch Pad Scholars, Kristen Holtan and Andrew Nimsgern, collaborating with Greg Herker and John Zehren from Gateway Technical College. Gateway students will be developing CAD designs and prototypes for Andrew's and Kristen's startups.



Feb 17th the Fab Lab hosted a group from Brookfield Central H.S. Tom Juran, Applied Technology Dept. Chair, and other administration came to gather ideas and information as they are looking at adding a Fab Lab program.

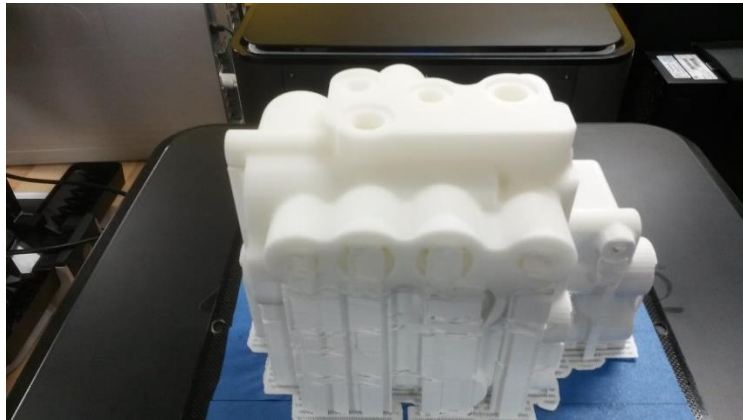
Feb. 24th the Greg Herker & John Zehren visited Union Grove H.S. to assist in teaching their H.S. teachers about CAD Design & 3D printing, as well as how their students can take advantage of the Fab Lab in their Post-Secondary careers.

This month, Greg Herker has begun leading a training workshop at the Racine Campus for Sue LaCanne's Graphic Design class that will have her students earning a certification from Dremel/NC3 in 3D printing.

Feb 15th, Ryan Tollakson, COO of Deltaflex, a Racine manufacturer, visited the Fab Lab. We are developing a relationship in multiple areas, including prototyping & design assistance, developing internships, and other partnership opportunities for Gateway students.

Feb 1st, Rick Gilpatrick, Senior VP Research and Innovative Product Development, FNA Group, visited the Fab Lab. They are strong supporters of education and will begin to engage the Fab Lab for assistance in 3D printing, as well as leverage a closer relationship with Gateway Technical College.

Feb. 6th, the Fab Lab finished a prototype part for Aswanth Ganesen, Mfg Engineer, for American Metal Technologies. This was the longest print we have run to date, taking nearly 5 days continuous printing to complete. They were pleased with our final product, we were excited also that when Aswanth came to pick up his part, he also brought along his CNC machinist who is assisting on this project who was a 2013 CNC Boot Camp grad.



Here is the completed part prior to removing support material.

Feb 14th, Greg Herker visited the East Troy H.S. Fab Lab and met with Principal Kevin Kittslar and his staff. We are working on ways that East Troy students can work together with Gateway Technical College through our Fab Labs.

Feb 6th, the Fab Lab hosted Justin Gutierrez, who will be managing the new Innovation Lab for KUSD. We helped Justin with info on equipment and operations and will be continuing to partner with KUSD Innovation Lab so there students can gain info on our Fab Lab and Gateway programs.

Apprentice instructor Rob Alderson had the 3rd year apprentice class install some modifications and upgrades at iMET in the Telecom Room 231. They installed larger

pull boxes and grounding and bonding to bring existing up to code. Rob worked with instructor Randy Reusser on the timing and scope of the project.



We recently completed a BICSI class for CC&N, a large Telecom Company. Instructor Randy Reusser has been working with them for nearly 9 years. Four students earned a high level Certification, the BICSI Technician. It required extensive training on Tuesday and Thursday nights and concluded with 2 hours of hands-on testing and a 170 question 2 1/2 hour written exam.

Neil Petersen actively promoted Gateway's CNC program to students participating in Workforce Advancement Grant Training. To date 3 students have applied as a result of his efforts.

On February 1st the Gateway Certification Truck went to Elkhorn High School to present to about 18 students on the transportation career paths offered at Gateway and also offered them some hands-on training with the Snap-on Multimeter Certification.

On February 2nd the Horizon Center hosted about 70 students from KUSD. This was coordinated with the Gateway Disability /Student Support departments hosted the student group from about 9-12 and had a variety of stations set up to allow the students to see what we do in auto, diesel, and aviation.

On February 3rd iMET and Horizon hosted over a dozen people from Marquette University that came to see the Snap-on & NC3 partnership in the areas of Maker Spaces and Fab Labs along with the supporting equipment such as tool control. Additionally, foundational certification such as Multimeter, Torque, and PMI were showcased that can be included in such areas.

On February 10th, Matt Janisin presented to 150 students at the Lake County High School Technology Campus about the various career opportunities at Gateway.

On February 27th Gateway hosted a group from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) as part of “The Right Signals” grant initiative of which Gateway was one of 20 colleges nationally chosen to participate. The purpose of The Right Signals Initiative is to demonstrate a new credentialing model that recognizes multiple quality credentials to send "the right signals" to employers, students, and colleges about the meaning of these credentials. Key credentials to be targeted are degrees, certificates, industry certifications, apprenticeships, and badges. Jaime Spaciel and Matt Janisin presented on Gateway’s current progress and outlined the next steps that will be taken towards meeting our grant objectives in the areas of credentialing. The group also toured both the Horizon and iMET Centers as well as Snap-on headquarters to learn more about our industry partnerships and NC3 that has provided Gateway students many certification opportunities.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> the Horizon Center hosted its first Racine Park High School Automotive Open House. With the seamless integration of Gateway’s and Park’s automotive curriculum, most Park automotive students earn Gateway credit and many will even complete the entire first semester. First semester completers will earn the Undercar Technician Pathway Certificate and have taken their first step to a rewarding career as an automotive technician. To help reinforce the fact that they are Gateway students and to ensure the parents involved understand the value of the credits earned by the students the Horizon Center hosted an open house from 6-9pm. The group of about 50 parents and students arrived at Park KS around 6pm and was given a program overview by Gateway / Park HS auto instructor Jerry Kobriger and then loaded a bus to Gateway’s Horizon Center. At the Horizon Center the students and parents enjoyed a dinner and met with Gateway faculty and staff while touring the facility. The also met with local Dealer representatives to hear firsthand how needed skilled technicians are in today’s industry.

On February 28th Business & Workforce Solutions cosponsored Digital Manufacturing Commons with Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) and Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute. The morning was spent sharing with area manufacturers the various Trends in Digital Manufacturing and how it will impact their operations.



On February 6th, Stacia Thompson, Bryan Albrecht and Cyndean Jennings met with the Lakeside Community Policing House to discuss opportunities to offer GTC programming



Thalia Mendez, Business Resource Specialist met one-on-one with eight individuals interested in starting their own businesses, two signed Launch Box Membership Agreements. Eighteen members signed up for the February Lunch & Learn, *Business Structures and the Tax Benefit of Each One*, presented by Joanne Freitag CPA. She presented tax returns for the same business under three different entities - everyone was engaged. Especially when they saw the difference in taxes paid.

Accelerator 2016 Update: Kelly Kruse, Big Sky Design reported as of January 31st her business has grown 30% since the accelerator. Miranda Rochol, LifeBook Builder was accepted into Project Entrepreneur 2017 Weekend Intensive in New York City. Project Entrepreneur ignites bold ideas by providing women access to the tools, training and networks needed to build scalable, economically impactful companies.

Thalia gave a tour to College of Lake County faculty who were interested in co-working spaces as well as other entrepreneurial eco-system programs such as business incubation and the maker-space movement. Additional outreach included the Water Council quarterly membership meeting, and the joint chamber Business Blender at UW-Parkside.

Thalia continues to work with the Mayor's office on the Racine Entrepreneurship Summit scheduled for June 2nd and SCORE's event, *Coming Together for Entrepreneurship in Racine and Kenosha*. This is hosted by Gateway and scheduled for May 3rd, both Mayor Dickert and Mayor Antaramian are scheduled to speak.