



Volume 4



Summer
2019

Foundation
Access

PAYING IT FORWARD

Largest donation ever to Foundation to impact students for generations.

Pay it forward.

And the best time to pay it forward is now.

That's the belief of Michael Kopper and Michele Whitfield, and that's exactly what they did, contributing \$2.85 million to the Gateway Technical College Foundation to pay for scholarships for students in engineering and manufacturing-related programs as well as benefit students in the college's Promise program.

"Gateway's vision for education is the same as ours. We want to help Gateway to further what they are already doing," said Michele Whitfield.

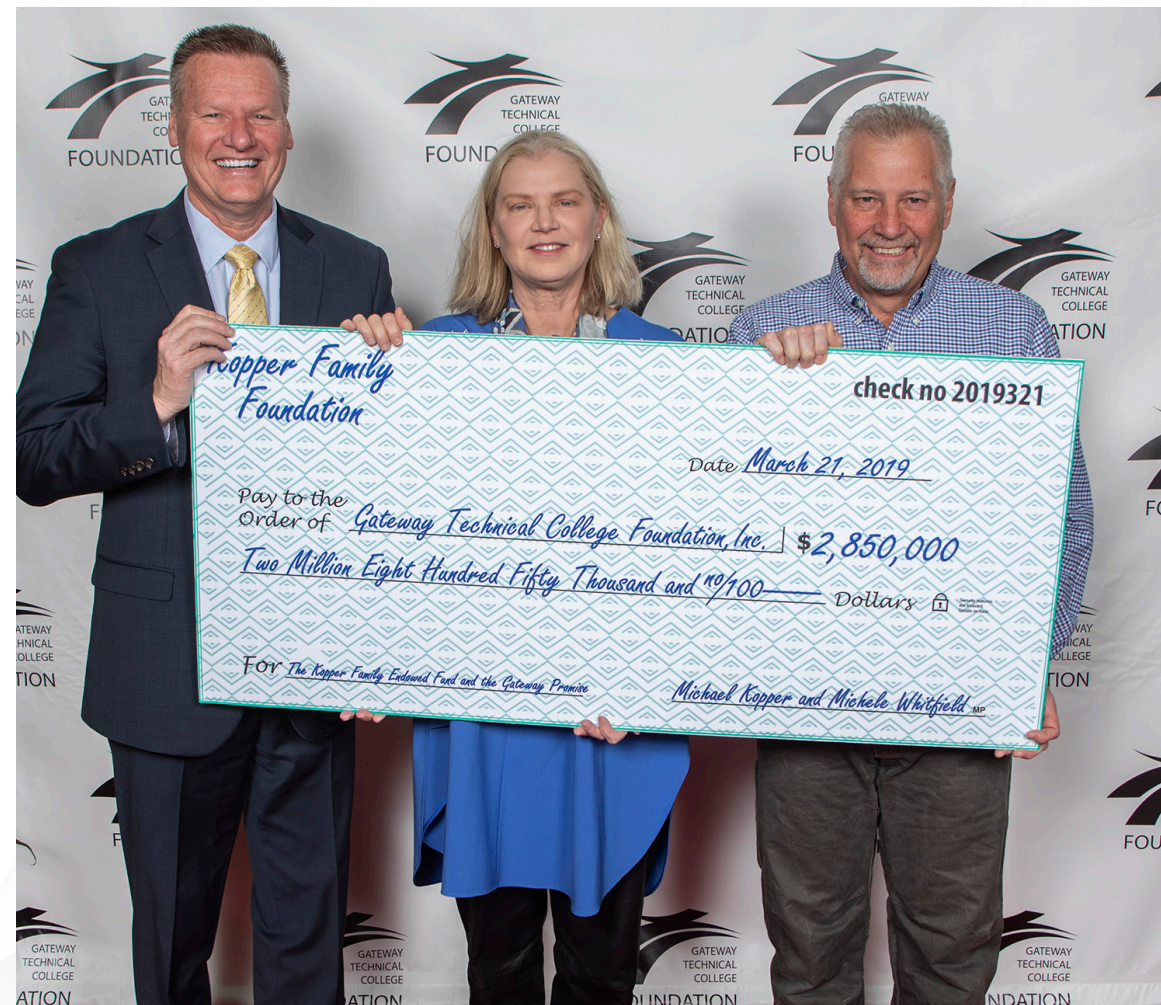
A total of \$1.5 million was contributed to establish the Kopper Family Fund while \$1.35 million will go to Gateway's Promise program. Both will benefit students as they gain an education at Gateway to prepare for family-sustaining careers. Michael is the founder and CEO of the decanter centrifuge manufacturer Centrisys Corporation, and his wife, Michele, is the marketing director of the company.

"Michael's philosophy and my philosophy is that you have to pay it forward," said Michele. "Michael started his education at a technical college in Germany very much like Gateway at a very young age, and it has helped him in his career success. We believe it's important to keep manufacturing alive, and the way to do that is through education. We felt the need to give and allow for more educational opportunities in the Kenosha area."

Michele said her and Michael's ultimate goal is to spark an interest in technical education among others as a viable and solid way to gain the skills to a career.

"Gateway's vision for education is the same as ours. We want to help Gateway to further what they are already doing."

— Michele Whitfield



This is the largest single donation ever to the Foundation.

Michelle said Michael and his business partners sold a portion of the business three years ago, and their donation to the Foundation for the scholarship and Promise program came from that sale.

"We are so honored Michael and Michele have chosen to invest in generations of Gateway students' education and the community through Gateway Foundation's endowment," said Jennifer Charpentier, Gateway Technical College Foundation executive director. "Their support is inspiring. I am grateful."

Foundation helps student to support career – and family

Chad McGuinnis sought a career shift and knew the first thing he needed to do was to enroll at Gateway Technical College.

He loved the Diesel Equipment Technology program and was excited about his future career prospects. He worked through his studies but also had to make sure to take care of his family at home, something many Gateway students face every year.

He had reached the point financially that he needed a boost to be able to finish his degree and enter his new, family-sustaining career. That's when the Gateway Foundation stepped in.

Fueled by two scholarships, Chad was able to continue his studies and finished his degree in Spring 2019. He entered his career before graduating and is excited by his future prospects.

But Chad said the key to making this happen when it did was the support from the Foundation.

"I couldn't have finished the program without the two scholarships. Those two scholarships combined were able to get me over the top – and be able to finish my program.

"I am very happy, because it would have been a very large burden on my family to be able to finish my program. In fact, I don't know if I would have been able to continue to stay in my program for that semester."

Chad received a President's Opportunity Scholarship and an American Truck Historical Society Beer City Chapter scholarship. The American Truck scholarship, started in 2015, supports a student enrolled in one of Gateway's Diesel programs.



When Chad – who was in the health career field as a nurse – enrolled in the Diesel program, he knew little about being a diesel technician but did know that he needed structured training to succeed.

"I am very happy, because it would have been a very large burden on my family to be able to finish my program. In fact, I don't know if I would have been able to continue to stay in my program for that semester."

— Chad McGuinnis

Chad is convinced he made the right choice for himself and his family.

"It will allow me to do something I enjoy doing and enable me to support my family while doing it. I will be living a far more fulfilled life than I would have otherwise."



County clerk named Gateway Distinguished Alumni

The story of Mary Kubicki, Gateway Technical College's 2019 Distinguished Alumni, is one of persistence and education becoming the bedrock to build future success.

Mary, Kenosha County Clerk and 2012 Gateway Technical College graduate, credits her education at Gateway for giving her the tools and confidence to be a leader. After two unsuccessful bids to become county clerk, Mary in 2007 embarked on furthering her education by enrolling in Gateway's Supervisory Management degree program.

Mary's third run for the office, in 2008, proved successful. She's held the position for the past decade, serving the people of Kenosha County.

She points to the skills and reputation gained through earning her Supervisory Management degree as keys to reaching her goals.

"I came really close to winning that second time, and I thought what I need to do is to go back to school, so I enrolled at Gateway," says Mary. "Gateway gave me the tools I need to become a department head, to budget, to work with employees.

"I also think that the people who elected me saw that I took the initiative to go to college to further my education, and I showed them I had confidence in my abilities and was using that education to help me to become a strong county clerk."

Mary's nominator said that she is very involved in the community and attends and supports many public events. She serves on the Hope Council on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse board as vice president, serves as secretary for Crime Stoppers, was awarded Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for the Boys & Girls Club in 2010 and tutors in the Kenosha County United Way's Readers Are Leaders program, to name a few.

Mary continues to encourage others to achieve their dreams through education and hard work.

"Gateway makes education affordable, easy to access, it's a solid education and it's a diverse student population. The college offers education for everyone."

YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS TRANSFORMS LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

All year, it is exciting to be a part of the Gateway community. This spring, we were honored to receive the inspiring support of the Kopper family in March. Michael Kopper and Michele Whitfield's commitment to the community and career and technical education will shape the lives of generations of community members.

Thanks to your generous support, a record number of Gateway's students graduated this past May. Every day, your thoughtfulness helps transform the lives of our community members.

The college welcomed its third cohort of Gateway Promise students this June. This critical program continues to provide tuition-free education to deserving students who direct-enroll from high school to Gateway. Each year, we have been able to provide the Gateway Promise program to more than 160 entering students. This means, in our third year, we will have nearly 500 students who participated in this program.

Thank you,



Jennifer Charpentier, Ph.D, CFRE
Executive Director



LOOKING BACK AND PAYING IT FORWARD

Imagine it is ten years from now. You are shaking the hand of a Gateway student who received a scholarship, student emergency grant, or benefitted in some way from your generosity a decade ago. He or she shares with you how much it meant to them for your investment in them.

In May, I had this amazing opportunity. At the Foundation Scramble, I reconnected with Brett Blasiman, Gateway alum and Foundation scholarship recipient. Ten years ago, Brett received the Katy Ganaway Memorial scholarship. During dinner at the Foundation Scramble, Brett shared with us: "In 2009, I was working as a mechanic, and due to unforeseen circumstances, my family's income was cut in half. After long deliberation, I decided that I needed some additional education to bring my skill set up to date if I was ever going to get ahead. This was not an easy decision to make, I had two small children at home, and seeking my Electronics degree from Gateway would mean committing two years of my life.

"So I did it. Not just dipping my toes in the water with a night class here or there, but I took the full plunge and enrolled as a full-time student. I was in my 30s, and I hadn't even set foot in a classroom in 12 years.



"One year later, I was awarded two scholarships from the foundation. The Katy Ganaway scholarship and the Reusser Electronics Scholarship. My two boys saw me get up on stage and shake hands with Mr. Albrecht. They got to see their dad make a positive change in his life, and to be successful.

"In 2013, I earned my B.S. in electrical engineering technology (from MSOE). I now work designing and programming controls systems for industrial automation. I use skills that I learned at Gateway every single day. A few years ago, I was asked by my former instructor and now colleague Pat Hoppe to teach as an adjunct. It was my opportunity to give something back to the program that had done so much for me, and so I now teach in the same classrooms where I learned so much."

This is just one story of so many that you help make possible. Our investment in Gateway students through the Foundation changes lives for generations. On behalf of the Foundation Board, thank you for your support of education to strengthen our communities.

Sincerely,



Fred Ganaway
Board Chairman

Golf outing on par to success

This year's golf outing was, again, very successful and a lot of fun to all who participated! This year marked a quarter century for our annual event. Thank you to all who came out to support this event, the Foundation and the students. Your generosity will help support students as they pursue their dreams.





SCHOLARSHIP HELPS STUDENT TO FINISH ON TIME, REACH GOAL OF HELPING OTHERS

"The scholarship really helped me. I didn't feel like I had to put off finishing my degree – I was able to finish it." — Ivory Billups

Ivory Billups thought finances may cause her to take a semester off from her studies at Gateway Technical College, delaying her timeframe to earn a degree and start her career or further her education.

A Foundation scholarship changed all that, and Ivory kept her studies on track – and graduated with a Human Service Associate degree, walking across the stage at the May commencement ceremony to gather her degree and take the first steps to her future.

"I had gone through some financial hardships and thought I would have to take a semester off," says Ivory. "The scholarship really helped me. I didn't feel like I had to put off finishing my degree – I was able to finish it. I think knowing you are able to afford your classes also affects your grades, and this helped me to take care of my classes."

Ivory was awarded the Human Services & AODA Certificate Scholarship as well as the Ken Vetrovec Memorial Scholarship.

Ivory began in Gateway's Nursing program before deciding to shift programs and go into Human Service Associate. "Going into this field would still help me to fulfill my goal of helping people, which is what I want to do. I want to be in a career where I can help people in some way," says Ivory.

Ivory excelled at Gateway, making the dean's list several times before graduating this year. She says she took classes consistently and always saw graduating as her goal. The scholarship played a part in that goal, and she encourages other students to apply for one, as well.

"I've been a part-time student for four and a half years now, and I would say that the scholarship really did make a difference in my life," says Ivory. "I would encourage others to apply. It becomes that tipping point when you ask yourself, 'Can I keep going, or stop because I can't afford to get those books I need for class now?' The scholarship was that tipping point for me to stay in college."

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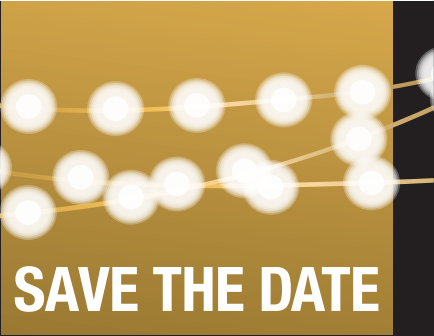


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SAVE THE DATE

Gateway Foundation Presents:

Innovation Celebration

A uniquely Gateway party

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Tickets are \$125

(price includes catered meal, beer, wine,
signature drinks, live orchestra and auction)

All proceeds benefit the students
and programs at Gateway.

Registration is now open at
gtc.edu/FoundationInnovation

For more information, email
GatewayFdnEvent@gtc.edu

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