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## **Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs: Improving the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act**

Testimony of Bryan Albrecht, Ed.D.  
President & Chief Executive Officer, Gateway Technical College

Hearing before the Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
November 19, 2013

Thank you Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Miller and Members of the Committee. I am honored to share with you my perspective on the importance your work and leave you with three examples of promising practices from our community.

My name is Bryan Albrecht, and I serve as President and CEO for Gateway Technical College. Gateway is located in Southeast Wisconsin and is one of 16 technical colleges in our state. In FY 2013 Wisconsin received a state appropriation of \$20,241,685 from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The funds are split between post-secondary technical college districts (55%) and secondary school districts (45%).

Our college history supporting the education and training needs of global companies such as Snap-on Incorporated, Trane, SC Johnson: A Family Company, Modine, IBM, and Insinkerator provides a perspective of the critical need to invest in programs that provide skills for next generation technical careers. Nick Pinchuk, President and CEO of Snap-on, Inc. recently stated to the National Coalition of Certification Centers that "The time is now for technical education", and I could not agree more.

Hundreds of articles have been written about the skills gap, and the lack of qualified workers. Bill Symonds, Director of the Pathways to Prosperity Project at Harvard Graduate School of Education wrote, "The United States is no longer a global leader in education. Many of our youth are not developing skills they need to prosper in the 21st century economy. Unless we equip youth with the education and workforce skills they need to succeed, we are in danger of leaving millions of young people on the sidelines, severely jeopardizing our nation's ability to remain competitive in a global economy".

So what do we do to combat this war on our economy? What impact must the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act have on the education training needs of youth and adults? And what are some of the successful best practices that our community has been able to gain as a result of the Carl D. Perkins Act investments?

With the support of our business community and the leveraged Perkins funding we have been able to transform our training programs to rapidly respond to the needs of dislocated workers, upscale incumbent workers and engage new workers.

The following examples demonstrate the importance of business and education working together to improve career and technical education at both the secondary and post-secondary levels.

- As a founding member college of the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3), Gateway along with now over 150 colleges, has partnered with Snap on and Trane to develop industry certifications that ensure training curriculum is aligned with the needs of employers, and that students demonstrate world class skills. This year the NC3 network of colleges is positioned to award over 10,000 industry certificates to student technicians in the automotive and energy industries ensuring a workforce for the future.
- The integration of academic curriculum and industry standards resulting in measurable outcomes has served as the framework for our bootcamp manufacturing partnership. The SC Johnson Company, along with over 40 local employers integrates services from the area workforce boards and Gateway to assist students in mastering skills in Computer Numeric Control (CNC), Welding, and Industrial Machine Repair. Through this program students have the opportunity to earn nationally validated, portable industry credentials. Examples include Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC) safety, and production; American Welding Society (AWS); National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3); Multimeter, and Torque Technology.
- My last example is one that demonstrates how Gateway Technical College in partnership with the Kenosha Unified School District have utilized Perkins funding to support a framework for programs of study leading to post-secondary credentials for high school students. Gateway Technical College in partnership with the Kenosha Unified School District co-operates a high school and adult learning center called LakeView Technology Academy. Students beginning in grade 9 are exposed to college faculty and curriculum throughout their high school experience. Beginning their junior year high school students enroll in Gateway courses in engineering, manufacturing and information technology, all offered in the LakeView Academy. When they graduate, students will have earned between 18 to 40 college credits, building a pathway to college, and career success. LakeView is a nationally recognized 'Project Lead the Way' high school with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) for all learners.

Gateway provides the curriculum, instruction, and technology needed to deliver high skills integrated in a secondary school environment. Through articulation Gateway Technical College has college credit transfer agreements with all fourteen (14) high school districts we serve. Examples include Health Occupations, Business Services, Automotive Technology, Engineering, Hotel Hospitality, Marketing, Welding, Information Technology, and Mathematics.

In conclusion, I offer three recommendations that have improved career and technical education in our community.

- Career and Technical Education program outcomes must align with industry credentials to assure that there are common college and career pathways for all students.
- Integrate students support services with occupational programs to build bridges for student success in the work place and continued education.
- Establish transcribed credit agreements between secondary and post-secondary institutions that add value to the academic and occupational goals of the student.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Albrecht". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and 'A'.

Dr. Bryan Albrecht  
President  
Gateway Technical College

Attachments:

Case Study Trane

ACTE Perkins Reauthorization Guiding Principles

NCATC Newsletter

Lakeview Technology Academy Facts Sheet