



Local News

[Cincinnati.Com](#) » [NKY.com](#) » [Local News](#) » Gateway student works way to P&G

Last Updated: 9:02 am | Tuesday, January 2, 2007

Gateway student works way to P&G

Helps build partnership for school

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Elizabeth Combs, 26, of Edgewood, has won the Mary Bacon Award for the Outstanding Community and Technical College Co-op/Intern Student for 2006-07.

Combs was the first Gateway Community and Technical College student to earn an internship at Procter & Gamble. P&G was so pleased with her work they hired her full time. The award is sponsored by the Kentucky Association of Cooperative Education and Career Employment.

Amy Monson, Gateway's co-op placement coordinator, nominated Combs for the award. She cites Combs' commitment, determination and hard work as factors in her winning the award.

ADVERTISEMENT "It's very hard for us to get our students to apply to P&G because of the commitment - two full-time semesters. Our students are really trying to finish up their associate's degree in two years," said Munson. "This would extend their schooling another year. But it's a real honor to be accepted as a co-op student at P&G."

"I felt I was very lucky to have this opportunity and wanted to do my best," said Combs. "I knew what an opportunity this was for me and for Gateway. I opened the door for Gateway to build a relationship with P&G, and I made sure I set a good example of what students at Gateway can bring."

Being driven is something that came to Combs after high school.

"After graduating high school I took some college courses but wasn't ready for 'the real world' just yet, so I worked full time in restaurants and one day said if I want a career I'm the only one who's going to make it happen," said Combs.

Combs enrolled at Gateway thinking a four-year program was too intimidating.

"I thought, if I can make myself get through two years with an associate's, then I will go on to get my B.A.," she said. She plans to start her bachelor's degree in the fall of 2007.

"My professors at Gateway, especially Ms. (Carol) Bethel and Mrs. (Mary) Wittrock, along with Amy Monson, the co-op coordinator, were also a big reason why I kept going," said Combs. "They showed that they cared about my education and career and did anything they could to help."

When Combs started, the P&G program required a three-term commitment.

"She would work full time and take classes at night so she could finish up her associate's degree at Gateway on time," said Munson. "She also did a lot of online work."

When the co-op conditions were complete, the department Combs worked in created a full-time position for her.

[Print](#) | [Go back](#) | Copyright 2007, *NKY.com*