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## Gateway forming alumni arm

### Connection to school preserved

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**EDGEWOOD** - Gateway Community and Technical College is forming an alumni association.

Although Gateway itself is relatively new - formed in the late '90s during a statewide consolidation of technical schools and community colleges - the alumni association is open to all of Gateway's predecessors. This includes Northern Kentucky Community and Technical College, Northern Kentucky State Vocational School, Northern Campbell Vocational School and the Henry E. Pogue Health Occupations Center.

Laura Cook, vice president of resource development and external affairs, will be spearheading the association's development.

"Many alumni have come to us and want to form alumni groups representing various departments," Cook said. "They have expressed interest in raising money for scholarships so that they can give back to the place that gave them so much.

"We believe that alumni want to be connected to their community college."

Gateway has no specific plans for the association. Cook believes that the alumni should be in charge of the organization's programs.

"We'd like to think about highlighting graduates who are making a significant impact in our community. If that means an alumni hall of fame or other recognitions, time will tell," said Cook.

"It is important to us that the alumni leadership steer the course for this vital organization," said Cook. "I am amazed every day at the level of expertise our graduates display in the workforce."

A big unknown for Gateway is how large the alumni association could get.

"Because Gateway is a young college and represents the union of various institutions, it is difficult to pinpoint how many alumni we have," she said. "As we evolve, we will make an all-out effort to get the word out throughout Northern Kentucky so that as many who wish to join can do so."

Gateway's motives are not totally altruistic. Engaged and enthused alumni are the school's best public relations tool.

"Our alumni are testimonials in the workplace," said G. Edward Hughes, Gateway's president and CEO. "They are very important to us as individuals and as ambassadors in the community, first-rate examples of the quality of our programs and instruction. Our alumni represent what Gateway is all about, which is creating individual success that leads to a successful community."

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