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Last Updated: 3:54 am | Saturday, June 14, 2008

# Gateway grant writer is done

## Meyer's efforts pulled in cash

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - Dale Meyer provides Gateway Community and Technical College with 27 percent of its revenue. She's not a wealthy benefactor; she's the school's grant writer, a position she has held for 30 years. Meyer will retire at the end of the month.

Meyer said she's seen many changes over the past 30 years. The school has changed names many times and women, once rare on campus, represent 58 percent of the student body.

And, through her grant-writing role, she's seen changes in the stature of Gateway.

**ADVERTISEMENT** "In 1978, the only federal grants that were available for technical schools were through set-aside programs for 'handicapped and disadvantaged' students that were administered through the state," she said. "Gateway, as a comprehensive community and technical college, now has the capacity to compete with colleges and universities on the state and national level for a wide range of grant awards. The college has also applied for and received funds from local and regional foundations."

Meyer said Angie Taylor, Gateway's vice president for business and industry services, is the "idea woman" behind the grants.

"I'm the one that puts the idea into proposal format," said Meyer. "Writing grant proposals can be stressful, but the more you write the easier it gets, and the more proposals you write the more awards you receive. Once a grant award is received, someone else has to implement and oversee the funded project and that may prove to be a much larger responsibility."

Meyer said being Gateway's grant writer came about because others disliked writing grants. From 1978 to 2000 her title was special project coordinator.

"Many administrators do not like to write grant proposals, so many of our proposal opportunities became special projects," she said. "Since I was basically the only person writing grants during our technical school days I guess I was the logical choice when the colleges were told to designate a grant writer."

Meyer jokingly said grant writing is not always a safe profession.

"Almost all federal grant proposals are submitted electronically," she said. "There were so many colleges submitting proposals for the Title III grant competition that the Web site kept crashing on the day before the proposal was due, so I stayed up all night in order to submit the proposal at 4 a.m. That same day, after the proposal was successfully submitted, I collided with my son's dog and broke my leg."

Meyer is proud of the work she's accomplished, but takes special pride in Gateway receiving a National Science Foundation grant.

"NSF grants are considered to be very prestigious in the grant world and they are not easy to get," she said.

Meyer said she plans on napping during her first two months of retirement, then she and her husband will visit Egypt.

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