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College awards teacher, staffer

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Two Gateway Community and Technical College employees - staffer Jana Camm and faculty member Melissa Fry - have won the school's Fall 2006 Spirit of Excellence Awards.

The award is part of a Gateway program called Celebrating Excellence.

Its goal, according to spokeswoman Margaret Thomson, is to "identify, prioritize and recommend college actions that will obtain and retain regional, state, national and international recognitions and awards that attest to the quality of GCTC personnel, students, programs and services."

Camm is an intervention specialist for Title III programs. She defines an intervention specialist as someone "who helps students overcome barriers or obstacles that may interfere with their success."

"Jana displays a special respect for students, faculty and staff and continually keeps a watchful eye out for the best solution to fit each individual circumstance," said G. Edward Hughes, Gateway president and CEO. "She is very energetic, conscientious and always makes sure that she allows the necessary time to achieve a positive result in any situation. Through the Lunch and Learn Workshops that she hosts, Jana has made a significant impact on the professional development of our faculty and staff."

Camm credits her co-workers with her success.

"The caliber of professionalism of the faculty and staff at Gateway is awe-inspiring and for me to be acknowledged as excellent is truly motivational," said Camm. "I have been enabled to do a good job, because everyone at Gateway does a good job of recognizing students with barriers and makes appropriate referrals to me."

Fry is an English professor. She recently helped organize Gateway's first Poetry Jam and a program to get Christmas gifts for the children of students.

"I love my job and have fun at what I do," said Fry. "Even better, I know I am making a difference. This motivates me to go above and beyond just classroom instruction and get involved in campus activities."

"Melissa is admired by everyone," said Hughes. "She demonstrates her dedication to student success every day by going above and beyond without expectation for anything in return."

Employees are nominated by their colleagues and a confidential committee selects the recipients.

The awards are given twice a year.

The criteria for the award winners, according to Thomson, is someone who has helped to retain students, presented a positive perception of Gateway to the

outside community and helped keep an atmosphere where individuals have fun and enjoy what they do.

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