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Grant supports screen for jobs

State awards Gateway \$60K for program

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Gateway Community and Technical College has earned a \$60,000 grant from the Kentucky Adult Education program to provide work skills assessments to employers and job seekers.

Gateway along with the Kenton County Adult Education program will work with employers to see what a job entails and what skills are required. The employers can then screen candidates who have demonstrated those skills by earning a Kentucky Employability Certificate (KEC).

Assessing employer needs and the employees' skills is done through WorkKeys assessments developed by ACT, the organization that administers the college entrance and placement exam. It measures reading, applied mathematics, and locating information.

Amber Decker, Adult Education Coordinator for Gateway, said the assessment shows that job candidates are interested in improving and demonstrating skills. "It says, 'I do want to get a job and I do want to show you what I can do.'"

"We've worked with some employers so that they know who is promotable and want to make sure they have basic skills," said Decker.

Gateway has partnered with several area employers to administer the program.

"Even if a person has a high school or college degree, it is always important to brush up on your skills and test taking abilities before you take an employer's skills assessment," said Citigroup vice-president Johnna Reeder Fasold.

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