



December 26, 2009

Gateway career assistance extended

*By Howard McEwen
Enquirer contributor*

A program designed to help those out of work prepare for new jobs will continue.

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System has announced it will extend its Career Transitions initiative. Gateway Community and Technical College is a member college of KCTCS.

"This program is one of the ways we work to increase access to postsecondary education for everyone, but particularly those who need to acquire new skills to adapt to a changing economy," said G. Edward Hughes, president/CEO of Gateway Community and Technical College. "Workforce development and workforce readiness are a big part of the reason we exist."

The extension continues the program through the spring term at all 16 Kentucky technical schools. The program features a 50 percent tuition scholarship for up to six credit hours for unemployed workers. Kentucky residents who have become unemployed and who have filed for unemployment benefits since Oct. 1, 2008, are eligible for the program.

"Most of the dislocated workers receive information when they apply for unemployment through the Kentucky One-Stops (career centers)," said Andre Washington, Gateway's director of admissions and recruitment. Gateway has an employee based at the Florence One-Stop or students can contact Washington at 859-442-4176 or andre.washington@kctcs.edu.

Washington said one aspect of the program is assistance in the application process.

"We assist the student through the admission and registration process," said Washington. "We also assist in completing all paperwork required by the unemployment office. We assist the student in obtaining any financial assistance toward gaining college credit. Gateway offers students the flexibility of taking day and evening courses, classes online and on the weekends. The student can attempt as few as one class or as many as a full-time course load."

Thirty-eight Gateway students have enrolled in the program since it began in March.

Gateway is working with local agencies to inform dislocated workers of the education resources that are available and to coordinate their efforts. Also, each college has developed specific workforce training programs to meet the specific needs of their local community.

Washington reported, "the popular programs are anything medical, business management/accounting, and anything hands on - welding, HVAC and automotive."
