A New Year’s Message from President Kendrick

As we look ahead to an exciting new year, let’s take a moment to reflect on the one we’ve just completed.

Although the longest recession since World War II made 2009 a challenging year, and as a result we bid farewell to many valued co-workers through early retirement, it also was a pivotal year in Gateway’s history.

After years of planning, work started last month on our new consolidated campus downtown, a project that will not only bring our facilities into the 21st century, but also will bring us closer together as a community. It is a monumental undertaking that could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of so many talented members of our faculty and staff.

I am pleased to report that the Gateway Community College Foundation added several scholarships to its roster in 2009 and work has begun on the Gateway Community College Foundation’s campaign on behalf of the new campus. 2010 promises to be a milestone year.

All this has come as our enrollment broke records this fall at 6,800 and early registrations for our spring semester are up 30 percent over last year. Gateway is now listed 44th out of the top 50 community colleges nationwide in enrollment growth since 2007 for those colleges with total enrollment between 5,000 and 9,000 students. It is another testament not only to the quality of our educational experience, but also to the importance of those who make that experience possible.

I hope that each one of you will join me in focusing on achieving three important goals for the 2009-10 academic year. They are: creating an environment in which student success is an expectation; balancing enrollment demands with existing services and resources while maintaining flexibility to manage and improve operating efficiency; and diversifying and strengthening our resource development and external funding.

My thanks go out all of you for all that you do — and Happy New Year!

— Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick
Attendance at GCC holiday dinner breaks record

More than 600 guests attended GCC’s Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate, a holiday tradition sponsored and run by faculty, staff and students that serves 16 shelters and programs across New Haven.

This year’s event, the largest of its kind in the area, hosted 150 more people than it did in 2008. Almost 100 volunteers staffed the celebration. Buses donated by Dattco stopped by each shelter and program and brought the participants to GCC’s Long Wharf campus in shifts.

Guests were served a full gourmet buffet prepared by students and faculty in the college’s culinary program. The event also included toys for the children, as well as festivities with Santa and Mrs. Claus, magicians, face painting and carolers (in photo With Mr. and Mrs. Claus, from left are: elf Emma Hadley, event founder Professor Andrew Randi and guests Jeremiah Otero, in Randi’s lap, Haley Rojas, Lanesia Tinney and Jarelle and Jamal Pope).

Every adult left with a bag of personal care items and all participants left with a winter coat, hat, gloves and scarf.

The event is the brainchild of culinary arts professor Andrew Randi, who established it nine years ago. “Seeing so many guests at this holiday celebration is heartwarming,” Randi said of the night’s unexpectedly large crowd. “What started out as a small effort has touched the lives of hundreds of people, from our guests to the volunteers who work for months to make it happen.”

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick said the higher number of guests this year shows the increase of those in need in the New Haven community. “I am so proud of the Gateway family. They embody the mission of the college to serve the residents of our region, wherever they are in life,” she said. “There are those who have been at this event as a guest, only to come back the following year as a volunteer and that is what the holiday is really about – giving back when you are blessed.”

Every person who helped put on the event — from donors to volunteers — deserves thanks for their generosity. Randi gave special thanks to the event’s chairs (see photo for many of them): Alice Pandolfi, who coordinated transportation and shelters; Rick Palinko, who coordinated the toy drive; Martha Lipowski, who coordinated the winter wear drive; Nancy Robinson, who coordinated the gift wrapping; Sue Swirsky who organized the volunteers; Janet Klinck and Robbin Airault, who coordinated the entertainment; Vicki Bozzuto and Matt Wisniewski who coordinated the personal care item drive; and Louise Petroka and Sue Chenard who coordinated the decorations.
New campus: Work begins; groundbreaking scheduled; Professional Day presentation slated

Construction of the new GCC campus downtown began Dec. 11 and the official groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Jan. 26 at 11 a.m.

"We are finally off and running," said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick.

Dimeo Construction Co., the construction manager for the new campus, will begin its work by overseeing the demolition and reconstruction of a service tunnel within the site. The tunnel services businesses along Church Street, Chapel Street, Temple Street and Crown Street, a full city block known as Chapel Square. The tunnel is also where the new campus's loading dock will be located.

Over the course of the winter, foundation slabs and walls will be poured at the site. Plans call for the 600-car, pre-cast garage to begin to be erected early this summer and for structural steel work to begin this fall. Dimeo has a 900-day contract that calls for "substantial completion" by May 30, 2012. The project is being administered by the state Department of Public Works.

The $182.7 million, four-story campus will be located on Church Street at the sites of the former Macy's and Malley's department stores. The campus will encompass 360,000 square feet and the parking garage will add another 200,000 square feet to the project.

Dimeo also is scheduled to make a “virtual reality” presentation about how the new campus will be constructed at the college’s next Professional Day on Jan. 20.

GCC holds White House Jobs Forum on campus

GCC hosted a White House Community Jobs Forum on Dec. 10, bringing together about 50 individuals, businesses, organizations and community leaders to identify avenues and obstacles to job creation in the greater New Haven region.

Similar forums took place at sites across the nation. They were planned in conjunction with President Obama’s Jobs Creation Forum at the White House on Dec. 3 and his jobs bill speech on Dec. 8 at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. It was hosted by GCC’s Center for a Sustainable Future and led by Dr. David N. Cooper, dean of corporate and continuing education (see photo at podium).

Participants at the forum were asked to discuss a number of issues including: how the president's strategy is impacting job creation in this area and its relevance to the New Haven regional economy; identifying parts of the local economy that are thriving, expanding and hiring, as well as those that still are struggling and hit the hardest;
which businesses and sectors seem most poised to rebound; identifying the “jobs of the future,” the major obstacles to job creation in the New Haven region, and factors and incentives that could make businesses more likely to start hiring.

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, who gave introductory remarks, said she sees the unemployment situation as an urgent issue. “There’s no time to waste,” she said.

Frank Kuchinski, a Gateway forum panelist and vice president of marketing and business development at Poulsen Hybrid in Shelton, argued that the state needs to grow new industries because, without them, small businesses will only create jobs a handful at a time. “There’s an acute need in Connecticut for training so people can install our products,” he said.

Laura Collins, a forum participant and management consultant, said the state needs to develop business talent for the long-term and find ways to employ people by the hundreds. “People need jobs,” she said. “People need jobs fast.”

Cooper said a summary of feedback gathered at the forum and a video recording of the event are being sent to the White House.

**College approves railroad engineering degree, alternative energy technology certificate**

A proposed associate degree program in railroad engineering technology (RET) and a proposed certificate in alternative energy transportation (AET) both completed the college approval process in December. They will begin the state approval process this month with the hope that they will both be launched in the fall of 2010.

Both programs will fall under GCC’s Engineering and Applied Technologies Division.

Division Director Paul Silberquit said once the RET program is up and running it would be the only program of its kind at an institution of higher education in the entire Northeast. He said work on the RET program began more than a year ago after officials from Metro-North Railroad approached the college in an effort to enhance the education of current Metro-North employees who are eligible for tuition assistance through the employee union. As discussions continued, an additional need was added to prepare new employees to fill anticipated vacancies within the railroad industry, due in part due to the number of employees who will be eligible for retirement within the next several years.

Students who enroll in the RET degree program would get to choose from two “tracks” or specialties — electromechanical or signaling and communications. Students choosing the electromechanical track would learn the necessary skills to be employed in the repair and maintenance of rail cars. Students opting for the signaling and communications track would learn the necessary skills to be employed in the repair and maintenance of railroad signaling and communications systems.

The proposed AET certificate is designed to provide students with the entry-level skills necessary to compete in the new “green-collar” workforce that services electric, hybrid and other renewable fuel-powered vehicles. Unlike GCC’s current alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) certificate, which requires students to participate in one of the college’s existing automotive technology programs, the AET certificate could be earned without a majority of GCC’s general automotive courses, said Anthony K. Rish III, an assistant professor and lead instructor for GCC’s AFV program.

Gateway has one of the oldest alternative fuels programs in the country and it was one of the first to offer a hybrid vehicles class. It is also a charter member of the
National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium.

The proposed AET certificate is one of three proposed certificates being created at GCC with help from a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Sustainable Operations, Alternative and Renewable (SOAR) Energy Initiative.

The other two proposed certificates are clean water management and solar technology. The clean water program hopes to finish the college approval process this month, and the solar technology program hopes to complete it in February, clearing the way for the state approval process to begin. Silberquit said the state approval process can take anywhere from two to 18 months, but officials are hoping these two programs may also be launched this fall.

GCC initiates VITA tax preparation project

For the first time ever, GCC, in collaboration with the IRS Stakeholder Relationship Division’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and the New Life Corporation of New Haven, will offer Gateway students free, personal income tax preparation and electronic filing assistance throughout the 2010 tax-filing season.

On Saturdays, beginning on Jan. 23 and through April 10, free tax-preparation assistance will be available to students from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Long Wharf campus cafeteria. The service is available to students only; it is not open to faculty or staff.

International guitar series continues at GCC

GCC hosted the second concert in its 2009-10 International Guitar Series on Dec. 9 with Australian-born classical guitarist Rupert Boyd.

More than 50 people attended the free event, which was sponsored by the Humanities Department. It featured a variety of Spanish and Baroque music, including Valses Poeticos by Enrique Granados, El Noi de la Mare by Miguel Llobet and Bach’s Suite in A minor, BWV 997.

Boyd (see photo by photographer Giuseppe Turco) also performed new music by young Australian composers.

Called one of the most talented guitarists of his generation, Boyd is a New York City resident who holds a bachelor of music with first class honors from the Australian National University School of Music, a master of music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and an artist diploma degree from the Yale University School of Music.

“Rupert Boyd proved himself to be an utter master of the guitar in a very challenging, yet accessible and melodic program. It was a great night of music, and we all enjoyed talking with Rupert about music and his travels after the event,” said Daniel Corr, an adjunct music professor who organizes the series with Victoria Morse, assistant professor of French, Italian and Spanish.

GCC has been holding the series since 2003. “It has continued to be a great success at Gateway,” Corr said. “It attracts traditional students, as well as families, local arts enthusiasts and couples.”

Corr will perform for the next event in the series on Wednesday, Feb. 10. For more information, contact Morse at (203) 285-2160 or vmorse@gwcc.commnet.edu.
Faculty & Staff Highlights

39 to receive 2010 full-time service awards Jan. 20

Thirty-nine members of the faculty and staff at GCC will receive full-time service awards in 2010 for 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service to the state of Connecticut. The awards ceremony will be held in Professional Day on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Those receiving awards for 10 years of service will be: Lucille Brown, Kellie Byrd-Danso, Meisen Coe, Wayne Demske, Wanda Edwards, Gina Finn, Sandra Garde, Richard Halkyard, Jr., Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, Susan Moscato, Clara Ogbaa, Toni Page, Alice Pandolfi, Lawrence Salay, Wendy Samberg, Leroy Smith and Barbara Thomas.

Those receiving awards for 15 years of service will be: Vicki Bozzuto, Dr. James Brogan, Mark Bruno, Robert Costanzo, Carmen Garcia, Nicholas Halko, Marilyn Jacobi, Kathleen H. Murphy, Louise Petroka, Catherine Surface, Wesley Winterbottom and Raymond Zeek.

Those receiving awards for 20 years of service will be: Lee Barden, Julie Mangini and Marcia Piwarzyk. And those receiving awards for 25 years of service will be: Lisa Cherhoniak, Pam Dedona, Michael Loteczka, Mohsin Mehtar, Joseph Prince, Chester Schnepf and Susan Swirsky.

Our congratulations go out to all the award recipients.

GCC Campaign for Charitable Giving raises $9,700

GCC completed its portion of the Connecticut State Employees’ Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSECCG) in December, raising $9,700. Despite the recession, it was the second highest amount GCC’s campaign has ever raised.

The CSECCG is a once-a-year opportunity for state employees to contribute to non-profit charities at the workplace. Through it, employees can make a single gift to help people locally, throughout the nation or around the world. Statewide, contributions go to more than 900 charities, making possible a wide range of vital services, including shelter for the homeless, protection of the environment, research for cures of diseases and care for both children and seniors.

R.E. “Rocky” Tremblay, who co-chairs the GCC campaign with Sandra Garde, extended his thanks to everyone who participated. “The Gateway community is and always has been caring and giving of their time, energy and compassion,” Tremblay said.

In particular, he said, the success of the campaign would not have been possible without the generosity of Gateway employees and team leaders Rose Spagone, Maribel Lopez, Brenda Haase and Martha Lipowski.
Student Highlights

Art student exhibition on display through Jan. 29

The Gallery at Gateway Community College, located in Room 161 on its Long Wharf campus, is presenting The Gateway Art Students End of Semester Exhibition through Jan. 29.

A number of artistic mediums are represented, including photographs, sculpture and drawings (photo). The gallery’s hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The exhibition was launched with a reception on Dec. 10, said Nicholas Halko, professor of art and program coordinator for Studio Art/Graphic Design.

Calendar Highlights

Early Learning Center events in January, February

GCC’s Early Learning Center (ELC) will hold a kindergarten information night on Jan. 26 and sponsor a concert with the Atticus Brass Quintet (photo) from the Yale School of Music on Feb. 11.

The annual kindergarten information night will be Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 5:30 pm. Representatives from the New Haven public schools, teachers, and parents will share preparation strategies and application procedures. Child care and food will be provided.

Also, the ELC continues its collaboration with Yale School of Music in presenting a concert with the Atticus Brass Quintet on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m. in Room 160 on the Long Wharf campus. In addition to the ELC’s children and families, the greater Gateway community is also invited to attend. Donations towards a musical instrument for a New Haven school child will be gratefully accepted at the event, said ELC Director Marjorie Weiner.
College Goal Sunday slated for Jan. 31; Students and parents invited to learn about planning, aid

On Sunday, Jan. 31, GCC’s Long Wharf campus will be a host site for College Goal Sunday, a statewide college planning event for would-be students and their parents.

Participants can visit with financial aid counselors and college staff from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and receive one-on-one, expert advice about financial aid and planning for college. The snow date is Feb. 14.

GCC is one of 13 campuses across Connecticut hosting the event. In a single afternoon, participants can become familiar with college entrance requirements, learn about planning for college, and obtain on-site assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

“Participating in College Goal Sunday not only gives students and their families an opportunity to complete the FAFSA with the help of industry professionals, but also gives them a chance to ask questions in a comfortable and relaxed setting,” said Associate Director of Financial Aid Steven J. McDowell.

Participants are asked to register for the event at www.collegegoalsundayct.org. For more information about GCC’s event, contact McDowell at smcdowell@gwcc.commnet.edu or (203) 285-2129 or call toll-free at 1-888-512-3382. Those interested in volunteering for the event are also encouraged to register on the web site.

College Goal Sunday is funded and sponsored by the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators, the Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs and the YMCA.