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## Secretary Gassman Helps Dedicate New Horizon Center at Gateway Tech

### *State-of-the-Art Center to Train Transportation Technicians of the Future; Complements Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin Strategy to Invest in Workforce*

KENOSHA – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today joined with Gateway and Kenosha Unified School District Officials, Snap-on executives, and other business and community leaders in dedicating the new Horizon Center for Transportation Technology on the Gateway Technical College (GTC) campus in Kenosha. The \$1.18 million center combines GTC's automotive and aviation training programs in one state-of-the-art facility. The new center will also serve as a state and national automotive teacher education center.

"The investment that Gateway Technical College and its partners have made in the Horizon Center is exactly the type of investment in our future that Governor Doyle has proposed on a broader scale and it complements his winning Grow Wisconsin strategy," Secretary Gassman said. "This is the sort of collaborative spirit we need to succeed: people working together, meeting the challenges we face, and creating opportunities for success. I congratulate Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht and all involved in the new Horizon Center project."

A total of 92 students began training in the auto technician program at the new center this fall. The center has 13 new auto bays that are all integrated with computers so training can be delivered from Kenosha to any place in the world. State labor economists project 630 openings per year for auto technicians, who earn nearly \$40,000 a year on average with experience.

The Horizon Center is also the first center in the world to offer Snap-on certifications in diagnostics. In addition, the facility has a technology and career center with full conferencing facilities, computer kiosks, seminar series, and business development resources that support economic development. Located near the airport, the Horizon Center also has 11 students enrolled in pilot training

As a member of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, Secretary Gassman joined board members in November 2006 in unanimously approving \$1.18 million in state funding for the Horizon Center project. The college also raised \$2 million in private funds for the center's operation.

"As Governor Doyle says, the states that make crucial investments now in job training and workforce development are the states that will be doing well 5, 10, 15 years down the road," Secretary Gassman said. "We want Wisconsin to be leading those states, and under Governor Doyle's leadership, we are making those crucial investments now to train our workers for the highly-skilled jobs of the future."