

Gateway helps education take flight for critical care paramedic

Flight for Life paramedic says college helped her to help others

GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Gateway helped Hannah Webb – so she was able to help others.

That's exactly how Hannah likes to phrase it: Gateway gave her the financial and educational foundation to help her become what she is today.

And her impact on others can't be diminished. Hannah serves as a critical care paramedic on a local Flight For Life crew, taking care of those who've been severely injured and need skilled medical help.

"Gateway has had an impact on my life in so many ways," says Hannah. "They really set me up for success. The college began by helping me financially to afford college, then provided me with the foundation to successfully begin my career."

Hannah Webb

"Because of that, Gateway also set me up for financial success in my life. They have done so much to help me get where I am today."

Connections to Gateway run deep

Hannah's connections with the college run deep and began when she was a high-schooler who was unsure what career she wanted to pursue. Through Youth Options, she looked to Gateway to give her some guidance. Initially, she considered business or even music before her mom told her to look at

the health care field.



GREG LEBRICK PHOTO

Hannah Webb says Gateway helped her to decide her future career, helped her financially and then provided her with solid training to succeed as a critical care paramedic.

the health care field.

It was something which Hannah considered again – and again and again as she earned several different health care certifications and degrees to land her dream job in a highly demanding and highly skilled career field.

Says Hannah: "I think it's cool that I was able to get so much education in less than 10 years. Think of how many people I was able to help in that time frame, and it was all because of Gateway."

As a high school senior, she began EMT and certified nursing assistant courses at Gateway. She earned her EMT national certification the day she graduated high school – but still said she was unsure of her full-time career goal.

She began working as an EMT, though, and enrolled at Gateway through the Promise tuition-free college program. Hannah says she's unsure how she would have been able to pay for her Gateway degree without the program.

College opportunities help Webb succeed

"The opportunities provided to me as a Promise student were huge," says Hannah. "Part of me is speechless at how much it helped me. I grew up in a financially unstable environment, and it would have been a big struggle to get my education."

"The Promise set me up financially even after I graduated from Gateway. It helped me pay for my

Paramedic Technician degree – and then I was able to enter that career and use the money I earned there to pay for the rest of my education to be where I am now. I didn't have to worry about student loans when I went back to college – I paid for my degree."

In addition to the Promise program, Hannah says the two aspects of Gateway which helped her the most were the caring and knowledgeable instructors and flexible course offerings.

"Gateway offers a lot to its students," says Hannah. "And while I didn't use some of those extra resources, I knew they were available if I needed them and I knew they were helping other students."

"I also was able to build some

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Gateway has had an impact on Webb's life, leading to four credentials earned at the college.

great relationships with my instructors and my fellow students and am in contact with them, even to this day."

Hannah's educational path may have been varied – she earned four degrees and certifications at Gateway, plus some more at another technical college – but it all focused on the career she's thriving in today.