Each year we are able to offer so many deserving students opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have. Opportunities that are life changing.

With your support and generosity, we award scholarships to students that help provide an education for those who couldn’t afford college.

We also are grateful you have chosen to continue to support Moraine Valley. As you read through this annual report, you will see stories of students we have been able to help. It is these students and the others whose lives are changing for the better because of Moraine Valley and because of your generosity.

Once again, on behalf of all of us at Moraine Valley, thank you for your support.

Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins
As the newly elected president of the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation Board, I am both privileged and excited to begin my term and share with our friends and partners the achievements of the Foundation for the 2015 fiscal year. It was a year in which we provided more than $400,000 of financial support to our students, faculty and college programs. Our mission is to promote and financially support college programs and provide scholarships and financial assistance to students while exercising prudent management and investment of donor funds. This guiding purpose will remain in the forefront throughout my tenure as the Foundation Board president.

I wish to express my gratitude to the many individuals, board members, college employees, volunteers, business owners, foundations, and corporate partners who have contributed to our charitable mission. Without your gifts, we could not make the difference that we do for educational financial support at the local community college level.

Thank you for your generosity, and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Bruce G. Nawara, CPA

Message
from the Foundation president

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

— Winston Churchill
Bogeys, birdies and eagles.

Oh, my! The Foundation’s 2014 golf outing raised $44,000 thanks to the collective efforts of golfers, diners, volunteers, and sponsors.

A celebration for student success

There was no shortage of fun for the 300-plus party-goers at the 2015 Foundation Gala, where guests enjoyed a four-course meal prepared by the Culinary Arts students, coupled with craft beers and decadent chocolate creations. Guests were treated to smooth jazz classics by the Douglass Bratt Trio, and had an opportunity to have commemorative photos taken. A silent auction, complete with sports team memorabilia, paintings, photography, restaurant packages, hotel get-aways, and more, helped the event raise $43,000 to support college programs. Sincerest thanks to all who supported this annual event.
Honoring outstanding alumni

In 2014 we celebrated our inaugural induction of graduates into the Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame. These individuals, selected from a significant number of nominations, are a source of pride for the college for all they have accomplished as students and now as members of the community. They are a wonderful example of the college’s core values: integrity, responsibility, respect, fairness, and diversity.

Dr. Laura Aversano, 1995

Upon completing her education at Moraine Valley, Dr. Laura Aversano earned bachelor’s degrees from Saint Xavier University and the University of Illinois at Chicago, and graduated from the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry. She began her career as an associate general dentist in Downers Grove and Oak Lawn, and now is practice owner and general dentist at Manhattan Dental Care in Manhattan. She is an active participant in Operation Care Package sending boxes of dental supplies for soldiers, has a candy drive for local children to bring in bags of candy to send to the troops, and got her patients involved in making blankets to send to hospital patients. Dr. Aversano was named 2014 Business of the Year by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.

Elaine Echols, 2007

Elaine Echols is a court-appointed special advocate for children with CASA of Cook County. She earned her Associate in Applied Science degree in criminal justice at Moraine Valley. She has been a volunteer for the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Catholic Charities, Star Net Region V Office of Specialized Care on Child Abuse, and serves as a consumer advisory council member for Metropolitan Health Services. In addition, she has been a long-time mentor in the Mt. Zion FHM Church’s mentor program, working with young women who dream of going to college, and becoming independent and successful.

Michelle Gerrity, 2009

After earning her associate degree at Moraine Valley, Michelle Gerrity went on to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering with a biomedical concentration from Bradley University, where she served as president of the Society of Automotive Engineers. She works as an automotive safety engineer for Honda Research and Development and participates in the Honda STEM mentoring program, as well as the township community volunteer day in Ohio where she lives. Gerrity’s list of accolades includes a distinguished scholar award, a service award, a STEM scholarship, and being a commencement honor marshal, plus was recognized for prototype development at Honda. She also created the Michelle Gerrity Engineering Scholarship at Moraine Valley.
James Hofer, 1987

James Hofer’s career took him from a nondestructive testing engineer for McDonnell Douglas and a senior NDT engineer scientist for Boeing to president of Aerohoff Inspection Services. After earning an Associate in Applied Science degree in nondestructive evaluation, he went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in aviation maintenance and NDE at Lewis University and a master’s degree in business administration from Pepperdine University. He has received numerous certifications plus many accolades, including a candidate nomination for the MDC Future VP Program at Boeing, two Silver Eagle awards, an Atlas Award (B1 Bomber) and a nominee for the Boeing C-17 Moose Award. In his spare time, Hofer has been a volunteer coach for girls’ soccer, Little League Baseball, Pop Warner football, and girls’ softball.

Mark Patoska, 2007

Mark Patoska serves as a senior research associate for the Civic Federation, Chicago. He is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy, and was an alderman for the City of Blue Island, where he served as the chair of the Finance Committee and as a member of the Community Development Committee. He also was a public safety officer for Metro South Medical Center in Blue Island. After graduation from Moraine Valley, Patoska earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dominican University and a Master of Public Administration from DePaul University. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Dwight D. Eisenhower High School in Blue Island, and was a keynote speaker at the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society induction ceremony at DePaul University.

Jeffrey Swoboda, 1990

Jeffrey Swoboda is the 34th police chief of the Elgin Police Department, where he oversees more than 250 sworn and civilian staff. He worked his way up through the ranks from a police officer assigned to the city’s Resident Office Program, where he worked and lived in one of Elgin’s highest crime areas, to leading Elgin’s Gang and Drug units, and serving as deputy chief. Chief Swoboda earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Aurora University and a master’s degree in administration of law enforcement from Western Illinois University. He also has completed executive training at Northwestern University, the University of Notre Dame, and through the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Senior Management Institute for Police. The chief is a member of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin, Kane County Chiefs of Police, and Rotary International.

Mark Weber, 2003

After graduating from Moraine Valley, Mark Weber went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was a student commencement speaker at Moraine Valley and a member of the men’s cross country team. He served for more than four years as a trustee for the Moraine Valley Board of Trustees and as governor on the governing body for the Harris Academy Falconwood primary school in Greater London. Weber was a senior consultant at Ernst & Young, a budget analyst for the State of Illinois Office of Management and Budget, and currently is a manager with Accenture Management Consulting. He has completed more than 12 half-marathons, one full marathon and numerous 5 to 10K, and has raised more than $20,000 for the Accenture charity partnership by summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro and trekking to Mt. Everest Base Camp.
Returning Women Diversity Scholarship

Darlisa White has been inspired to follow her heart and hopes in return she will inspire other young ladies to do the same.

After being laid off from a career in the medical industry, White realized that for her to get back into the workforce, she would need to head back to the classroom. She admitted it wasn’t easy to return as an adult, but knew it was something she had to do, and that she would have to find a way to make ends meet while taking on the additional obligations of tuition.

“As I walked away from the Financial Aid department (at Moraine Valley), my eyes began to fill with tears. It was then that I fully realized how much completing my education truly means to me,” White said, adding that there was such relief when she learned she was going to receive the Returning Women Diversity Scholarship from Moraine Valley.

“Because of the generosity of a scholarship donor, I’m able to walk these halls and get my books, study and get that 4.0,” said White, who is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

White’s goal is to earn a degree in business administration and someday start an organization for young ladies. “I want to help them have a solid foundation and help them never lose their sense of who they are,” she said.

Listen to Darlisa’s story at morainevalley.edu/foundation.
Bridget Nee has overcome a lot in her lifetime. “After years of secluding myself in my home because of fear, I knew I had a huge choice to make. I could either work and barely scrape by or go to school to educate myself and make a comfortable living,” Nee said.

Despite being told for her entire life that she would never be able to complete school, Nee decided to meet those fears head on and enrolled at Moraine Valley. “I found that the fear I had of school was unfounded. I kept forcing myself into uncomfortable situations and by doing this, I was able to come out of my shell,” said Nee, who was been named to the President’s List for high grades and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society. “I had some very wonderful professors behind me who believed in me—even when I didn’t believe in myself. Moraine Valley has done so much to help build up my confidence. It’s a wonderful place for learning and support.”

Being on her own has meant Nee has tried to meet all of her financial obligations on her own. Financial assistance has helped and so has the American Association of University Women’s scholarship. “This scholarship means the world to me. I realize this is an investment in me and I am here to proudly say without hesitation that I am worth the investment,” she said.

Listen to Bridget’s story at morainevalley.edu/foundation.
Joseph Ruzevich doesn’t give less than 100 percent, whether it’s the classroom or in the community.

Ruzevich started Brother Rice High School with rigorous honors courses and finished with Advanced Placement Calculus, English Literature and Chemistry classes. He also was required to complete 20 hours of community service. Ruzevich topped out at more than 150 volunteer hours.

Now a freshman at Moraine Valley, he’s aiming big with his career choices and plans to pursue a double major. “I see myself either attending a top computer science university to obtain my master’s degree or beginning my journey in medical school to become an anesthesiologist,” Ruzevich said. “Moraine Valley is the first step in my journey.”

Ruzevich credits his parents with trying to provide every opportunity for him and his four sisters to succeed. He says he’s also thankful for a Moraine Valley scholarship.

“I really want to thank the donors who gave me this chance to attend Moraine Valley. If they had not, it would have been very difficult for my family to pay for not only my tuition, but my sisters’ tuition, as well as high school,” said Ruzevich, recipient of the Thomas J. Marneris Scholarship. “Ever since I was 13 years old and got my first job, I wanted to be financially independent. This scholarship I earned was a huge step forward. I want to be a responsible adult and part of that is financial independence.”
For the third consecutive year, employees at Moraine Valley have donated more than $50,000 to the Foundation. During the 2014-15 Employee Giving Campaign, 525 faculty and staff members made donations, which is a participation rate of 73 percent.

“I continue to be blown away by the generosity of our own faculty and staff. The percentage of giving is incredibly high in comparison to other community colleges,” said Kari Pantol, assistant director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations.

Pantol said employee contributions have a direct effect on the support the Foundation is able to provide to Moraine Valley students. “Employees give to the Foundation’s Employee Giving Campaign because they believe in the work of the Foundation and the contributions Moraine Valley makes to its students and the community,” she said.

Pantol noted the Foundation has hosted the Employee Giving Campaign since 2003 and estimates employees have contributed more than $400,000 during this time frame.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Moraine Valley Foundation was able to offer 19 new scholarships that provided almost $23,000 in additional financial assistance in 2015. These new scholarships were awarded to students based on a variety of factors, like area of study, such as culinary arts, travel tourism, health care or general studies; their activities in Moraine Valley organizations, coming to Moraine Valley from a parochial high school, enrolling as a returning adult, and more. Learn more about how you can start a scholarship. Contact Kari Pantol, assistant director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations, at (708) 974-5551 or pantolk@morainevalley.edu.
**Mission Statement**

To promote and financially support college programs and provide scholarships and financial assistance to students, while exercising prudent management and investment of donor funds.

**Vision Statement**

To be the charity of choice for educational charitable giving of private gifts from donors sympathetic to our cause.
The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation would like to recognize and thank all donors who generously have demonstrated a commitment to Moraine Valley Community College.

While we carefully prepared this donor list, we recognize that errors may have occurred. Please accept our apology if your name is not properly represented and contact the Foundation at (708) 974-5551 so our records can be corrected.
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