



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

February/March 2022 - Published by the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation



Foundation Gala tickets on sale now for April 22 event

After two years of hosting virtual galas, the Moraine Valley Foundation is thrilled to welcome our supporters back to campus! Join us on April 22 for an in-person dinner, entertainment, live auction, games and fun, as we come together to raise funds to help our students. Our theme is a *Mask-erade Night* to help emphasize that behind every mask there is a Moraine Valley student with a story to be shared.

[GALA INFORMATION](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Moraine Valley graduate wins IRS paralegal award

Beth Triezenberg, a 2015 graduate of Moraine Valley Community College, received the 2021 Chief Counsel Award for Outstanding Paralegal Support presented by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). She earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Office Technology along with the Small Database Administrator Certificate and the Business Skills Certificate, and is a paralegal specialist for the IRS office in Chicago.

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Moraine Valley offers new scholarships - deadline to apply is March 31

The Moraine Valley Foundation announced nearly 25 new scholarships were created during the past year. Various individuals and organizations [donated to the Foundation](#) to start the scholarships, which provided thousands of additional funds for the Foundation to distribute to students as they pursue their education. Students may apply to receive one

of the new scholarships and other awards now through March 31.

"People start scholarships for a variety of reasons" said Patti Friend Mehallick, Moraine Valley Foundation's director of alumni and annual programs. "They may want to remember a loved one, support a specific type of student, or area of study or they simply want to help students who are struggling to pay their tuition."

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Foundation scholarship recipient overcomes organ failure, vision loss

by Nick Stulga, News Editor, The Glacier

It was a normal day for 28-year-old Steven Stewart. He was working diligently as a forklift operator in an icy cold storage warehouse in

Illinois. As the hours passed, he developed a deep ulcer in the bottom of his foot. He didn't realize he had an infection that would change the course of his life.

It turned out he had sepsis, an inflammation of the body that comes from fighting an infection which can cause damage to multiple organ systems, leading to organ failure and even death.

"I did not think that the inflammation was from an infection, and thought that it was just healing, until one night after struggling with a very high fever for a day," Stewart said. "I was very weak, and my body was shutting down, so I had to go to the emergency room, where I was slowly losing consciousness."

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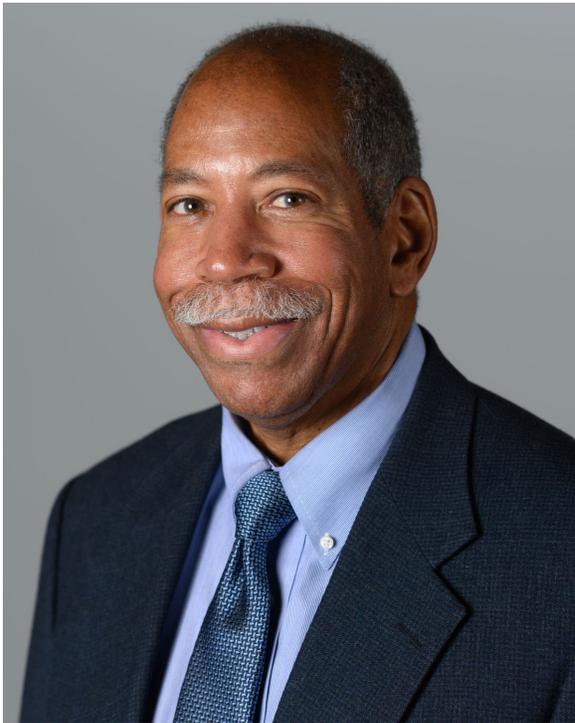
Health Sciences students continue to advance skills despite pandemic

When the pandemic forced most students to learn remotely, health sciences students at Moraine Valley Community College continued to work in the field, getting hands-on experience to make them job-

ready upon graduation.

"Obtaining clinical experience during the pandemic is making students more prepared to handle disaster and emergency situations on a different level," said Dr. LoShay Willis, dean of Career Programs.

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Moraine Valley hires new diversity, equity and inclusion executive director

Moraine Valley has hired Rory Smith to be the inaugural executive director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The new position was created to help the college live out and emphasize its core values of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) on campus.

Smith believes everyone is better off when student-specific solutions are sought, and his goal is to help the college generate those solutions to make additional improvements. He intends to work with every group involved with the college from the Board of Trustees to students to faculty and the community.

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Looking Back - Art students Jeff Jura, Lydia Dutton and Calli Roach work on ceramic tiles for the architectural bas relief mural unveiled in December 1998.



Read the Moraine Valley student newspaper - The Glacier

If you would like to see what college life is like today at Moraine Valley, check out [The Glacier](#), the college's student newspaper that is now available online. The publication includes articles written by student volunteers and journalism students.



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