



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

## 2023 NATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WEEK

2023 National Student Employment Week was held between April 10 – April 14, 2023. The Job Resource Center facilitated various events for student employees and student employment supervisors throughout the week. The Job Resource Center partnered with faculty and students in the Therapeutic Massage program to provide a free chair massage to student employees and supervisors.



Free headshots for professional use of social media, personal branding, and portfolios were available to student employees throughout the week. The Job Resource Center partnered with Marketing to make this opportunity available to students in the Moraine Valley Community College photo studio.



Appreciation Gifts for Student Employees and Student Employment Supervisors were made available to all student employees and supervisors involved in the student employment program for the current academic year.



# National Student Employment Week Awards

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The 2023 Student Employee Supervisor of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Emmanuel Esperanza Jr. Dr. Esperanza Jr. is the Assistant Dean of Student Success and a student employment program supervisor. He was nominated by a student employee he supervises and selected by a committee of MVCC Faculty and Staff. The Job Resource Center partnered with the MVCC Bookstore to provide a gift basket and partnered with Multimedia Services to capture a brief interview and the surprise award presentation.



The 2023 Student Employee of the Year Award was presented to Mohammed Jbara. Mohammed was an orientation leader for New Student Orientation and Academic Advising Student Employee. He was nominated by his supervisor Alejandra Dongo and selected by a committee of MVCC Faculty and Staff. The Job Resource Center partnered with the Financial Aid Dept. to provide him with a \$250 scholarship award to be used towards academic and/or tuition expenses while attending Moraine Valley. The Job Resource Center partnered with Multimedia Services to capture a brief interview and the surprise award presentation.

The Job Resource Center would also like to recognize the nominees for the 2023 National Student Employment Week Awards.



**Joseph Adeszko**

**Mechanical Technologies**

2023 Student Employment Supervisor of the Year Nominee



**Vanessa Andrade**

**Career Programs**

2023 Student Employee of the Year Nominee



**Selina Ammari**

**New Student Orientation & Academic Advising**

2023 Student Employee of the Year Nominee

# A New Way of Recruiting Top Talent at Moraine Valley Community College

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The impact of labor shortages can still be felt by many industries across the country, with higher education included. The need for creative and revitalized methods of recruiting top talent is more important than ever. Here at Moraine Valley Community College, we have a unique opportunity to recruit talent for open positions in the form of the Student Employment Program. Each student employee on campus receives firsthand exposure to higher education as an industry and, even more, the experience of working with talented higher education professionals at Moraine Valley Community College. Data collected by the Job Resource Center continues to demonstrate the overall impact the Student Employment Program has on retention and academic success of students at Moraine Valley Community College. Additionally, using the Student Employment Program as a recruiting tool has already been effective. Based on outreach efforts by the Job Resource Center, we connected with many faculty and staff members that were once student employees here at our college, further supporting the notion that the Student Employment Program can be an effective tool in the recruitment and retention of top talent.

In conjunction with National Student Employment Week, the Job Resource Center recognized staff members that were once student employees and now work for Moraine Valley Community College. We know that there may be more individuals who had a similar path to a career here at our college, and the Job Resource Center would love to hear from you. Several employees shared a brief testimonial relating to their past experiences and their decision to pursue a career path at Moraine Valley Community College.

## Employee Testimonials

**Employee Name: Mike Vazquez**  
**Current Position: Technical Engineer**  
**Student Employment Position: IMS Tutor**

Being an IMS tutor gave me the opportunity to apply the skills I had learned in the classroom and apply it directly right away by reinforcing my knowledge with real world experience. My skills as a tutor were noticed by my supervisors, faculty, and staff. This led to opportunities to expand my skills and resume even further by allowing me to pilot the library tutor program, help me win the Terry O'Banion Student Technology award, obtain CRLA certification, and more. Being a student employee also led to networking opportunities with people who had genuine interest in my success and to high level professionals, that otherwise if I had a normal job, I wouldn't have had access too. Many of the connections I made then have benefited me to get me where I am today (promoted 4 times since joining the college as a regular employee) with their leadership, guidance, advice, and now even friendship.

**Employee Name: Tiffany Hekpo**  
**Current Position: International Housing Specialist**  
**Student Employment Position: Job Resource Ambassador Intern, TRiO SSS Student Tutor, Orientation Leader**

As a previous student employee (2015-2017) I gained valuable learning opportunities and work experience that has helped me develop skills and gain practical knowledge that is now useful throughout my professional career. By working on campus, it allowed me to also network with faculty members and administrators, which has led to opportunities for mentorship and career development. In addition, student employment provided me with a sense of responsibility and accountability, as well as opportunities for leadership and teamwork. These experiences helped develop the soft skills that are highly valued by employers, such as communication, problem-solving, and time management skills. Overall, student employment positions provided me a foundation for academic and professional success by offering practical experience, valuable skills, and opportunities for mentorship and networking. By taking advantage of these opportunities and developing a strong work ethic, it has made my transition smooth, but also exciting!

**Employee Name: Cara Maca**

**Current Position: Early Childhood Education Specialist**

**Student Employment Position: Student Employee, Children's Learning Center (CLC)**

I was going to school to become a teacher, so the CLC was the first place I ever received experience teaching. I learned so much from working there and loved every minute! I loved it so much in fact that I came back a few years after I graduated as a part-time teacher at the center. Then I went on to work as a full-time teacher in a variety of different schools and positions for 7 years before I started back at Moraine in September 2022. I honestly believe that I would not have enjoyed teaching as much or learned all that I did about the field if it wasn't for working at the center first. The teachers taught me what it was like to be a good teacher myself not only by example but in the knowledge, they would provide me. By attending Moraine as a child at the Children's Learning Center myself from ages 2-5 and up to 8 over the summers as well as attending as a college student and working; Moraine has always been a big part of my life. It was no surprise that I searched for open positions at the college to work here again someday. Although I am no longer teaching, I am still working in the education field and helping our students earn the early childhood scholarship to help our students become great teachers themselves.

**Employee Name: Eugene Zedak**

**Current Position: Project Facilitator, Records Department**

**Previous Student Employment Position: Student Employee, Photo ID & Registration**

During the Summer of 1988 a friend that worked in Photo ID mentioned they were looking for student workers. I was not employed at the time and was interested in finding part-time employment while being a full-time student. The idea of working at the College sounded interesting. So, I figured, why not? I would take a student aide job for the next 2 years while I was studying at Moraine Valley. In August 1989, the original Photo ID department was taken over by the library and would no longer need student aides. Since Photo ID was located outside of Registration, I had gotten to know many people in the Registration Office, and they were seeking a student aide so 2 of us from Photo ID switched to Registration. I figured this would take care of my last year studying at MV. Little did I know that 35 years later, I would still be at Moraine Valley! But I found a home! I enjoy the work and the people working here are top notch! You won't find better people ANYWHERE! I moved on from being a student aide to being an on-call and then permanent part-time Service Representative in Registration before moving on to a full-time position as a Financial Aid Expeditor and then ultimately to my current full-time position as a Project Facilitator in Records. It's almost impossible to think of working anyplace else.

**Employee Name: Areej Abusharkh**

**Current Position: Departmental Assistant, Academic Advising Center**

**Student Employment Position: Student Employee and Intern at Job Resource Center**

My work at the Job Resource Center helped me increase my self-confidence and know the practical capabilities that I can perform and gave me a lot of functional skills to excel in my field of work. I also facilitated ways of dealing with everything as an employee, it gave me the ability to absorb job matters better and in an organized way. From my previous job, I learned organization, commitment, and time management. I also learned how to become flexible in accepting others and trying to adjust my reactions to criticism. I want to thank everyone who helped me advance my work and education and be a distinguished employee in my career field.

**Employee Name: John Andres**

**Current Position: Coordinator of Records and Assessments at the Learning Enrichment and College Readiness Department**

**Student Employment Position: New Student Orientation Student Employee with the Student Success Department**

I wouldn't say top talent at the college because there are so many incredible people that work on campus, but starting off as a student employee allowed me to really figure out what I wanted to pursue educationally and career wise. My initial goal was to study and get a career in health care because that was something my parents pushed on me. But working as a student employee made me realize my true passion is to assist other students and help guide them in a direction where they can be successful. Being a student employee allowed me to work with many professionals at the college who are already experts within their roles, and I was able to learn a lot from them at such a young age.



**Employee Name: Rosa Perez (2010 Student Employee of the Year)**  
**Current Position: Coordinator of Registration & Records**  
**Student Employment Position: CCCC - Clerical Student Employee**

Never in a million years did I think of working in this industry! Little did I know when I finally decided that it was time to put on my mommy professional clothes and continue with my education and be an example to my two newborn babies, my 10yr old son, and my 12yr old brother. My mom passed away at a very young age of 45 and my brother was only 5yrs old. Had to help my dad raise my brother and just wanted to inspire him as well. But as you get to meet students, instructors, and need to do an internship and meet those coworkers, you start to get that feeling of maybe you should stick around and not go corporate! After completing my degree, I was the first to be hired as an PT assistant at our Tinley Park location. I was there for a while and had a family change issue and needed to work evenings, when an opportunity opened up in our Blue Island location. Very different atmosphere and responsibilities which I enjoyed and learned about other areas such as GED/ESL. Worked with their staff and was told about an opening for evenings at the main campus (grant funded) PT- Program Asst for the Literacy Dept. where I even learned and was able to help students and have more interactions with them. When my twins were ready to go to school, I then decided to go FT and heard the Admissions Dept. needed an assistant. Then here is where it all changed! I had all the resources that every student should know, and I can learn it and share it, but not stopping me from gathering even more information from my friendly neighbors (student dev. offices) and possibly be a one-stop info staff member to student development. I became very involved with the rest of our departments by just being kind and friendly not letting any negative issues surround me. Then came this GREAT opportunity in Registration and Records!

**Employee Name: Vanessa Sevilla**  
**Current Position: Student Services Specialist, Multicultural Student Affairs**  
**Previous Student Employment Position: Student Employee, Athletic Department**

**Employee Name: Holly Katavich**  
**Current Position: Manager of Compensation & HRIS**  
**Previous Student Employment Position: Student Employee, Counseling, Advising & New Student Orientation**

**Employee Name: Graciela Diaz**  
**Current Position: Financial Aid Expeditor**  
**Previous Student Employment Position: Student Employee, Admissions Office & Writing Center**

**Employee Name: Agnieszka Badzioch**  
**Current Position: Testing Associate, Testing Center**  
**Previous Student Employment Position: Student Employee, Testing Center**



# On-Campus Recruiting

MORaine VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

get hired!

JRC  
JOB RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYERS RECRUITING ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, APRIL 24  
Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons – 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Building S, first floor Student Street near Building U  
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation – 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Building L, second floor, near the Library

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26  
Meijer – 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Building L, second floor, near the Library  
PepsiCo – 1:30-3:30 p.m., Building T, front lobby

MONDAY, MAY 8  
Family Dental Care – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Building L, second floor, near the Library

TUESDAY, MAY 9  
Griffith Foods – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Building S, first floor Student Street near Building U

JOB RESOURCE CENTER  
Individual Appointments | Online Resources | Career Workshops and Events | Internship Program | Student Employment  
Non-Traditional Careers Program | Employer Relations

CALL OR VISIT US!  
Building S, Room S202 | (708) 974-5737 | morainevalley.edu/jrc | jrc@morainevalley.edu

morainevalley.edu

Moraine Valley  
Community College

Throughout the Spring 2023 semester, the Job Resource Center hosted several on-campus recruiting tables. These opportunities were hosted in high-traffic areas to allow the greatest access and exposure for our employer partners and students. The on-campus recruitment opportunities this semester allowed for a targeted approach to connect candidates with relevant backgrounds and areas of study with companies or organizations that are the right fit. The goal of these outreach efforts was to create mutual interest among students and employers to provide the most beneficial recruitment opportunities for both stakeholders. The Job Resource Center would like to thank all of the employers that participated in the on-campus recruitment events this semester. We look forward to hosting future on-campus recruiting tables again in the Fall semester. The following companies held on-campus recruiting tables during the 2023 Spring semester:

- *Department of Justice - Bureau of Prisons*
- *Fairway Independent Mortgage Co.*
- *Meijer*
- *PepsiCo*
- *Family Dental Care*
- *Griffith Foods*
- *Skokie Police Department*
- *Silver Cross Hospital*
- *Rush Truck Centers*





# 17th Annual Intern and Employer Recognition Ceremony

After three years of hosting the Intern and Employer of the Year Recognition Ceremony virtually, we were finally able to have an in-person event. The 17th Annual Intern and Employer Recognition Ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, in the Moraine Business and Conference Center. During this event student interns, internship employers, faculty and staff were recognized for their contributions to the program throughout the year. There were guest speakers that included the 2021 alumni intern of the year, a current student intern, and a prospective employer. The Culinary Arts Program partnered with the JRC to provide an experiential learning opportunity for students in their program, and they prepared and served a hot breakfast for the attendees. The highlight of the event was the awarding of the Intern of the Year and Internship Employer of the Year. This year there were six student interns nominated and three internship employers nominated.



Employer of the Year

Southland Saints with Internship Manager- Marie Harrell, Intern- Y. Shareef, Dean of Student Services- Dr. Chet Shaw, & Director of the Job Resource Center- Dr. Pamela Payne



Intern of the Year

N. Hughes-Durkin with nominator Dr. Mark Cohen, Superintendent-Mokena School District 159



Internship Employer Nominees  
The Glacier, Southland Saints



Student Intern Nominees

Y. Shareef, H. Pavur, J. Landgraf, N. Hughes-Durkin, B. Garcia



MVCC Culinary Arts Program

# Business, Engineering, & Technology (B.E.T.) Week

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The Job Resource Center hosted Business, Engineering, & Technology (B.E.T.) Week in April with employers giving insight into their specific industry and roles within the industry. In addition, they discussed their company and possible job and internship opportunities. The Job Resource Center partnered with the following employers to present industry insights, professional experiences, and engage in open forum discussions with students:

- Chicago Police Department
- J.P. Morgan Chase
- HBK Engineering
- AMSYSCO



Chicago Police Department



J.P. Morgan Chase



HBK Engineering