



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter - January 2026



Attend the 2026 Gateways Gala to empower Career Programs

The Moraine Valley Foundation [Gateways Gala](#) will be held on Friday, April 17, at the Moraine Business and Conference Center.

The evening will include dinner, dancing, live music, live and silent auction and dessert prepared by Moraine Valley Culinary Arts students.

This year's theme, Empowering Career Programs, focuses on strengthening workforce education and supporting the Heating and Air Conditioning, Automotive Technology, Automation and Engineering Technology, and Welding programs. Funds raised will provide scholarships, essential supplies and program support to help make education more accessible for students enrolled in career programs.

The Foundation offers a variety of [gala sponsorship](#) opportunities for businesses and organizations seeking to support higher education while increasing brand visibility. Individual tickets are available through the gala website, with special pricing offered to Moraine Valley alumni.

The gala is supported by the Foundation's 2026 annual sponsors. Demonica Kemper Architects is a platinum sponsor, Old National Bank is a gold sponsor and PepsiCo is a silver sponsor. Supporting sponsors include ComEd, Heide Wealth Management, Kimeez and UPS.

GALA INFORMATION



Young Entrepreneur Fair coming to Moraine Valley campus

Emerging innovators have the opportunity to turn their ideas into real businesses at the Young Entrepreneur Business Fair on Saturday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Moraine Valley Business and Conference Center.

The event is open to children age 6–14 and provides hands-on experience in entrepreneurship. Participants will create a product or service, design and operate their own business booth, and interact with customers while practicing real-world business skills.

The fair is designed to encourage creativity, innovation and financial literacy while giving children a practical introduction to what it takes to start and run a business. The college's student business club, the NextGen Business Leaders, is sponsoring the event with Moraine Valley business students mentoring the young entrepreneurs.

Parents and community members are invited to attend.

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Scholarship recipient tours local factory

The Forging Foundation Ted Gutt Scholarship is awarded to students enrolled in various Manufacturing, Welding, AutoCAD, Electronic Controls and Engineering courses at Moraine Valley. As part of the scholarship requirements, the recipient is asked to take a tour of a local Forging

Industry Association (FIA) member facility. Upon completion of that, the student is awarded additional scholarship funds. Three students are awarded this scholarship each year funded by the FIA.

One scholarship recipient, Sebastian Guerrero Martinez, took a tour of Commercial Forged Products in Bedford Park, IL. Ted Gutt, after whom the scholarship is named due to his strong work ethic and dedication to training future generations, led the tour.

Martinez said, "I can't wait to demonstrate what this scholarship means and how important my major is for me and how hard I will keep working to get it."

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"Dinosaur World Live" coming to Moraine Valley

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a dinosaur! Get reacquainted with some prehistoric beasts at "Dinosaur World Live!" on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2 and 6 p.m., at the Moraine Valley Community College Fine and Performing Arts Center.

People of all ages will be awestruck by the lifelike puppetry that brings dinosaurs to the stage from the carnivorous giant Tyrannosaurus rex and stocky Triceratops to a Giraffatitan, Microraptor and Segnosaurus. "Dinosaur World Live!" follows Miranda, the daughter of paleontologists, who grew up surrounded by dinosaurs on a distant island off the coast of South America. She will introduce her pre-historic friends to the audience during the 50-minute performance.

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Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board donates residential sprinkler demonstration unit to Moraine Valley



Moraine Valley Community College received an updated residential sprinkler demonstration unit, donated by the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB), for use in the Fire Science Program. The unit will prepare Fire Science students to effectively approach residential sprinkler systems in the field.

The unit, constructed by former firefighter Greg Monnett, who described his work as “a labor of love,” replaces Moraine Valley’s outdated model. When NIFSAB Executive Director Erik Hoffer visited the college and saw the old demonstration unit was in disrepair, he offered to donate a new one to the college.

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2026 Business Network Dinner: Connecting Students with Industry Leaders

The Moraine Valley Business Department and the NEXTGen Business Leaders Club will host its 2026

Business Network Dinner on Thursday, March 26, 6 - 8:30 p.m., in Building M on the Palos Hills campus.

This annual event brings together business students and professionals for an evening of meaningful conversation, mentorship and networking. The evening will begin with registration and informal networking from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner prepared by Moraine Valley’s talented culinary students.

After dinner, students will rotate tables every 10 minutes, giving mentors the opportunity to meet with multiple students, share professional insights, and offer career advice.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Patti Mehallick at mehallickp@morainevalley.edu or call (708)974-5551.

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Read the Moraine Valley student newspaper

To catch up on the latest news and events from the perspective of Moraine Valley students, be sure to read The Glacier. This newspaper recently won several national awards for being an outstanding student publication.

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REMEMBER WHEN? 1986 - Checking out a videotape at the Orland Park Public Library are (left to right) Carolyn Hammond, telecourse program assistant at Moraine Valley; Jackqueline Viana, circulation clerk at the Orland Park Public Library; Patricia McArthur, circulation clerk at the Orland Park Public Library; and Rod Seaney, director for the Center for Alternative Learning at Moraine Valley.



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