



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter - May 2026



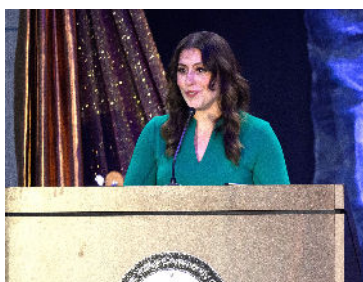
Fundraising gala raises \$70,000 for Career Programs

The Moraine Valley Foundation Gateways Gala took place on Friday, April 17, on the Palos Hills campus. The theme was "Empowering Career Programs" which brought together the Moraine Valley community to support the college's dedicated students in various career programs. The turnout was phenomenal, showcasing strong support for those enrolled in heating and air conditioning, automotive technology, automation and engineering technology, and welding programs.

More than \$70,000 was raised to support Career Program scholarships, essential supplies, tools, and programs that enhance educational accessibility for our students pursuing these career paths.

Thank you to the sponsors, donors, and all who attended to make this evening such a big success. The photos below show some of the highlights of the evening.

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Commencement celebrates Moraine Valley graduates

Moraine Valley Community College's 2026 Commencement was held on Friday, May 8, featuring student speakers Kelly Wilson, of Tinley Park, delivering remarks during the 2 p.m. ceremony and Amin Tekrou, of Oak Lawn, delivering remarks during the 6 p.m. ceremony. Moraine Valley's Professor of the Year, Dr. Amani Wazwaz, served as Grand Marshal of the procession and delivered a message to the graduates.



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Economic impact data shows Moraine Valley adds \$1.1 billion of income to community

A newly released economic impact study conducted by Lightcast and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) shows that Illinois' community colleges are a powerful driver of the state's economy, generating \$27.2 billion in total economic impact and supporting 324,273 jobs statewide. The study also found \$1.1 billion of this impact and 12,303 jobs are generated annually by Moraine Valley Community College within District 524. The report, *The Economic Value of the Community Colleges of Illinois*, reflects fiscal year 2023-24 data and underscores the critical role community colleges — including Moraine Valley Community College — play in workforce development, business growth and economic mobility across the state.

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Community artists juried exhibition open.

Artists in the community will display their creations during the 23rd Annual Moraine Valley Community College Juried Community Art Exhibition, scheduled May 29 to July 30 in the Fine and Performing Arts Center's (FPAC) Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery and atrium, 9000 W. College Parkway in Palos Hills.

This annual exhibit is for artists 18 years and older, residing within a 50-mile radius of a Moraine Valley campus – the Education Center at Blue Island, Southwest Education Center in Tinley Park or the main location in Palos Hills.

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Moraine Valley's short-term training leads to long-term success

As part of the nationwide celebration of Community College Month, Moraine Valley Community College is highlighting its vital contribution to strengthening the local workforce through its short-term training programs.

Short-term training courses are a launching pad for some starting their careers, offer skill enhancement opportunities for others and serve as a turning point for many who are seeking a change in their professional path, whether students are taking a first step or next step in their career journeys.

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Foundation Golf Outing set for Sept. 16 at Cog Hill Country Club

With the warmer spring weather, it is time to get out the golf clubs to enjoy some fun on the links. The Moraine Valley Foundation's 45th annual Golf Outing is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 16, at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in Lemont. This event promises to be filled with fun and camaraderie, all while raising funds for student success. Be sure to mark your calendars. For information on participating in the outing as a golfer or sponsor, contact [Kalynn Duggan](#).

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Palos Hills. Admission is free.

Moraine Valley to host summer movies in the moonlight series

Moraine Valley Community College is hosting its popular Movie in the Moonlight series this summer. The college will show four movies on a 16-foot inflatable screen at the Gateway, between Buildings F and M, on campus, 9000 W. College Parkway,

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Application window for Moraine Valley Foundation scholarships closes the end of May

Current and prospective Moraine Valley Community College students are encouraged to apply for Moraine Valley Foundation scholarships. Ranging from \$250 to \$7,000, over 300 scholarships are available to students for the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters to cover tuition, books, fees and supplies. The deadline to apply for these scholarships is Sunday, May 31.

[APPLY HERE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS](#)



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 has won several national awards for being an outstanding student publication

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REMEMBER WHEN? This photo of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club was taken in 1987 when the club was assisting with projects at the college. The Oak Lawn club was a strong supporter of building the college in the 1960's.



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