Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Moraine Valley ALUMNI

Moraine Valley Foundation Scholarship recipients proudly display their scholarship certificates at the annual Scholarship Reception held in August.

Foundation honors scholarship donors and recipients

Two events held in August

The Moraine Valley Foundation awarded more than 300 new scholarships to help students pay for tuition, fees, books and classroom materials. "This is an exciting time of year when the students' hard work is rewarded with a scholarship thanks to the generosity of our donors who make it possible for students to pursue higher education," said Kristy McGreal executive director of the Foundation.

On Aug. 20, the Foundation held its annual Scoops and Scholarships event where donors met their scholarship recipients for the 2025-26 academic year. This outdoor event featured casual conversations between donors, students and their families while all enjoyed delicious ice cream.

The annual Scholarship Reception, held on campus, Wednesday, Aug. 27, in Building M, hosted scholarship recipients, families, faculty and staff to recognize students for their achievement. Keynote speaker, Brian Swift, a Moraine Valley graduate, attorney and bestselling author, inspired the students. Another Moraine Valley alumus and recent Foundation scholarship recipient,Travis Hountondji, also spoke at the event. Hountondji recently started the Pay It Forward Scholarship as a way of showing his appreciation for being awarded a scholarship just three years ago. The event wrapped up with a pep talk given by one of this year's scholarship recipients, Tommy Nelson, who encouraged the students to succeed.

The Foundation continues to award scholarships year-round. Contact the Foundation office for more information about how to start a new scholarship.

Scholarship Information

Scoops and Scholarships takes place on the patio area between Buildings C and M on campus.

The Pelino family, donors of the new Marjorie Pelino Scholarship, meet with some of their scholarship recipients.

Edward Walter McCormack Memorial Veterans' Scholarship recipient, Chariessia Ross, helps her son enjoy some ice cream at Scoops and Scholarships.

Moraine Valley Scholarship Recipients react to confetti cannons celebrating their accomplishments.

Moraine Valley alumnus and keynote speaker, Brian Swift, gives an inspiring speech at the Scholarship Reception.

One of the Riley Spreadbury Scholarship recipients, Kevin Kutcha, gets a photowith his family at the Scholarship Reception.

BID NOW! You do not have to be a golfer to bid in this auction!

Now is the time to bid on many exciting prizes and packages during the Moraine Valley Foundation's 44th Annual Golf Outing silent auction. The auction features a wide assortment of items to bid on, ranging from sporting event tickets to handmade quilts.

The Golf Outing is on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club, in Lemont, with all proceeds going to support student scholarships. Whether you are golfing or not, you still can bid on auction items now through Sept. 18, at 12 noon.

Some of the prizes are shown below. Details about all of the prizes are listed on the auction website.

BID NOW

Dell Pro Premium Wireless ANC Headset

Handmade oak desk organizer for files

Handcrafted quilt and quilt rack

Two tickets to The Second City

Pizza 750 basket

Four Chicago White Sox tickets

Run or walk the Halloween 5K

Pull out your gym shoes and a spirited costume for the 12th annual Halloween 5K run/walk and Kid's Dash on Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m., at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills.

Participants can walk or run the chip-timed 5K (3.1 mile) path throughout campus. The Kid's Dash will start at 10:15 a.m. for children 3 to 12 years old. All pre-registered participants will receive a T-shirt. Costumes are encouraged, and awards for individual and group costumes will be given. Prizes will be awarded to top race finishers in each age category.

Runners/walkers can register their children for the Little Pumpkins Patch, a free activity area open during and after the race that includes pumpkin decorating and various Halloween activities supervised by trained staff.

Read more

President emerita and alumnus join Gov. JB Pritzker in celebrating 60 years of community colleges

A press conference held at the Illinois State Fair to honor 60 years of Illinois community colleges included special remarks by Governor JB Pritzker, Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, president emerita of Moraine Valley Community College, and Jason Knade, Moraine Valley alumnus.

Jenkins, who served as the fifth president of Moraine Valley from July 2012 to June 2023, was named chair of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) in July. “As a former library faculty member, administrator and longtime president of Moraine Valley Community College – and now as chair of the [ICCB] board – I’ve had the privilege of witnessing the system evolve and expand,” Jenkins shared.

Read more

Moraine Valley earns 2025-26 Military Friendly® school designation

Moraine Valley Community College was recently recognized as a 2025-26 Military Friendly® School, receiving the Military Friendly® Gold designation and the Military Friendly® Spouse School designation.

This year, more than 1,800 schools participated in the Military Friendly® survey, and 830 earned special awards for surpassing the standard for the baseline designation.

The survey’s methodology, criteria and weightings are determined by Viqtory with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings are determined by combining each institution’s survey scores with the assessment of the institution’s ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans. Gold institutions represent overall survey scores that fall above 41% and have five or more qualifying benchmarks.

Read more

Collision of Rhythm musical group to perform at Moraine Valley

Prepare to be wowed by the musical, dancing duo, Collision of Rhythm, on Friday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Moraine Valley Community College Fine and Performing Arts Center (FPAC), in the Dorothy Menker Theater, 9000 W. College Parkway in Palos Hills.

Collision of Rhythm combines the talents of Bronkar Lee and Aaron Williams through dancing, beatboxing, instrumentation, juggling and more. Collectively, they play 17 instruments and engage with the audience in a high-energy performance, often compared to Blue Man Group, Stomp or Cirque du Soleil shows. Lee is a musician, producer and keynote speaker, who has toured in Europe as a circus ringmaster and appeared on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.” Williams is a virtuosic tap dancer and music educator trained in playing multiple instruments, who has appeared in commercials aired during the Super Bowl and the Olympics.

Read more

Moraine Valley partners with HERIF for free mobile vaccine clinic

Moraine Valley Community College hosted a free mobile vaccine clinic for 20 students on Sept. 3 at its Palos Hills campus, 9000 W. College Parkway. The mobile clinic was funded by the Healthcare Education, Research and Innovation Foundation (HERIF) and provided free vaccines and lab tests to students in the Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy and Basic Nurse Assistant programs.

The clinic is part of a pilot program designed to remove financial barriers that prevent students from enrolling due to unmet health requirements. HERIF partnered with Moraine Valley to evaluate logistics during this first year of the initiative, with the goal of potentially expanding it in the future.

Read more

Moraine Valley earns 2025 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being award

Moraine Valley Community College received Insight Into Academia magazine's 2025 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award, which recognizes institutions across the U.S. that demonstrate and foster mental health initiatives on campus through accessible services, peer support, proactive policy and emotional resilience.

In the award application, Moraine Valley highlighted the variety and breadth of services provided to students by its Counseling and Career Development Center. In particular, the application highlighted the Project Care initiative, which provides students with access to a full-service food pantry, basic needs support, emergency financial assistance grants, and a comprehensive assessment of individuals with referrals to community organizations. The pantry and associated services were enhanced in 2024 thanks to a Northwestern Medicine Community Benefit Grant.

Read More

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.

READ MORE

REMEMBER WHEN? This undated photo was taken during a meeting of the Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees.

Facebook | Follow us on Twitter | Watch us on YouTube

Privacy Policy | Unsubscribe

Moraine Valley Foundation
9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills, IL 60465