I am pleased to present to you the first edition of Community Connections, a Moraine Park, biannual newsletter designed to keep you connected with the many happenings at our College and the Moraine Park District. Our inaugural issue outlines several projects Moraine Park faculty and staff have been working on throughout the summer.

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We are particularly pleased to be sharing the news of the grand opening of our new Jackson Regional Center, which took place on Sept. 24. There were also several updates to our current facilities as well as initiatives implemented by our student affairs and alumni offices.

Thank you to all of our business partners and dedicated staff; without you, much of Moraine Park's growth this year would not have been possible. I look forward to sharing these exciting updates with you each semester. Thank you again for your continued support.

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Mike Staral, a ’78 Tool and Die Technologies program graduate, is proud to announce Mike Staral, a ’78 Tool and Die Technologies program graduate, as their 2013 Distinguished Alumnus.

After graduation, Staral began working as an apprentice at Willer Tool Corporation in Jackson, Wis. He is now the vice president of manufacturing for the company. During his 35 years on the job, Staral has helped grow the six-person operation to a team of 60 people, many of them Moraine Park graduates.

Staral gives back to the College by serving on the Moraine Park CNC/Tool and Die Technologies Advisory Committee, where he works with other industry experts to ensure Moraine Park students are learning the industry’s most critical skills. Most recently, Staral became a member of the Moraine Park District Board. In his position, Staral will help make decisions regarding the budget and new program implementation.

Moraine Park students to build Habitat home and change lives in the process

Moraine Park and Habitat for Humanity of Washington and Dodge counties kicked off a very special project on Monday, Sept. 9, as the two organizations joined forces to build a duplex for two deserving West Bend families. Students from Moraine Park’s Building Trades Construction Worker and Electricity programs will be working alongside Habitat crew volunteers throughout the 2013-14 school year to help build the new home. The students will do everything from staking out the building to wiring the house for electricity. All tasks will give them valuable experience in their trades.

Mihai Schnell-Harrison named 2013-14 District Student Ambassador

Each year Moraine Park chooses a student to represent the College as the District Student Ambassador. The nominees go through an extensive interview process and must commit to promoting technical education throughout Moraine Park’s district. Mihai Schnell-Harrison, a 2012 Wayland Academy graduate, was chosen to represent Moraine Park as the 2013-14 District Student Ambassador.

As District Student Ambassador, Schnell-Harrison is charged with promoting technical education, collaborating with student government and assisting with college activities and events. Schnell-Harrison is a second-year student pursuing an associate of applied science degree in Business Management and Supervision.

MORaine Park introduces ACE group

ACE, a new student leadership team designed to help increase student engagement, was introduced this fall by Moraine Park’s student affairs office.

All College Experts (ACE) is comprised of highly motivated and dedicated Moraine Park students who will receive training in leadership, personal development and service. ACE members will be involved in everything from recruiting students and giving campus tours to attending student life activities as well as providing support for various college functions.
Less than one year ago, Moraine Park faculty, staff and local business partners started with an idea to create a state-of-the-art facility for students pursuing manufacturing training. Thanks to the hard work of many, the facility became a reality as the College celebrated the official opening of its new Jackson Regional Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on Sept. 24, 2013.

The decision to open a new facility was in response to many requests from Washington County employers for job training in welding, fabrication and other advanced manufacturing trade skills.

Moraine Park President Sheila Ruhland said the Jackson Regional Center provides an excellent resource for students while also strengthening Moraine Park ties with area businesses.

“This is an important milestone for Moraine Park and our surrounding communities,” Ruhland said, as she addressed the more than 150 business leaders, community members and staff who attended the open house. “We are proud to work with local businesses to help continue Wisconsin's strong manufacturing tradition and move Wisconsin forward.”

Wisconsin Technical College System President Morna Foy, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Deputy Secretary Jonathan Barry and West Bend Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Craig Farrell all spoke during the ceremony, noting the importance of facilities like the Jackson Regional Center and the technical college’s ability to readily respond to the needs of the workforce and, ultimately, create jobs.

Moraine Park leases the 9,515 square foot facility located in the Jackson Business Park in Jackson, Wis. Leasing the facility allows the College flexibility to adjust to market conditions and respond quickly to changing employment needs. The facility houses a welding lab with 18 welding booths, a fabrication center, a CNC lab, two classrooms, two offices and a conference room. A Metrology Lab serves as a home to two new CNC simulators and two new VRTEX 360 welding simulation stations, purchased from a $647,000 U.S. Department of Labor Grant. These welders offer many benefits including helping students achieve baseline skills more efficiently and eliminating the waste of costly welding materials.

Moraine Park would like to extend a special thank you to everyone involved in making the Jackson Regional Center a reality.
NEW LABS GIVE STUDENTS REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Students in Environmental Sciences and Trades programs got a welcome surprise when they returned for classes this fall. Staff and work crews relocated the Building Trades Construction Worker and Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology (HVAC/R) programs from the Fond du Lac to the West Bend campus.

Moving the two programs to join the Electricity program at West Bend will enable all three programs to work together. The new space is larger and will allow students to access equipment not previously available to them. “The new labs are a huge asset for our programs,” Mike Melaney, electricity instructor said. “Students will get great hands-on experience and learn what it is like to work with different crews on a job site.”

The space created from the Building Trades Construction Worker move will be converted into a state-of-the-art paramedic lab. The lab is set to be completed in January 2014.

“Giving our students the opportunity to practice their skills with state-of-the-art equipment in a controlled setting is definitely something that will set our program apart,” Jim Brace, associate dean of health and human services, said.

New HVAC/R Lab

Electricity Lab on the West Bend Campus