PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Sheila K. Ruhland, Ph.D.

Much has happened at Moraine Park since our last issue. Our Moraine Park Foundation officially launched its FACT campaign, our IT – Applications Developer program is moving from an online program to an entirely face-to-face program that will be moving to our Beaver Dam campus, and our Building Trades Construction Worker and Electricity programs are moving along nicely on the home they are helping build for Habitat for Humanity of Washington and Dodge counties.

We shared the opening of our new Jackson Regional Center, and I am proud to report we have been seeing great success with the facility. In addition to the classes already being offered, this summer and fall we will be offering several other classes including Introduction to Business, Occupational Math, Computer Literacy and College 101, giving our students the opportunity to gain a broader educational base.

We also have many events happening over the next several months, so please take a look at our Calendar of Events or go to morainepark.edu/calendar.

APP DEVELOPER PROGRAM HEADING TO BEAVER DAM

In August, Moraine Park’s Beaver Dam campus will be home to the IT – Applications Developer program, which is moving from an online format to a traditional classroom style.

“Our Applications Developer program is unique in that it has a heavy emphasis on databases so it is really geared toward business reporting, analysis and processes,” said Instructor Dave Pickart. “Students currently gain experiences working with area companies, and offering the program face-to-face will provide more opportunities, benefiting both companies and students.”

For details, call Lisa Pollard, associate dean, at 920-924-3333.
February was National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, and Moraine Park, along with the entire Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), celebrated by honoring those committed to career and technical education.

One of the ways Moraine Park celebrated was with their annual Moraine Park Association of Career and Technical Education (MPACTE) awards banquet on Wednesday, Feb. 5. The banquet recognized individuals and organizations for their dedication to and excellence in career and technical education. In addition to Moraine Park staff, several companies and individuals outside of the Wisconsin Technical College System were recognized.

This year the Business Award of Merit went to Michels Corporation of Brownsville, Wis., for their support of Moraine Park. Each year the award is presented to a business or person outside of the Wisconsin Technical College System that helps to promote and improve career and technical education in Wisconsin.

In addition to the banquet, Moraine Park sent three students to the State Capitol Tuesday, Feb. 18, as part of a system-wide showcase of service learning and other projects. More than 60 students, representing all 16 Wisconsin technical colleges participated in the event.

Moraine Park was represented by students Kim Treider, Joseph Clark and Jessica Parsons. The students presented their service-learning projects to state legislators and other visitors.

The service-learning initiative at Moraine Park is designed to pair community service projects with classroom instruction, giving students real-world, hands-on experience in their field of study while helping their communities. Each of the students representing Moraine Park worked on a service-learning project that benefited a local community organization.

“Career and Technical Education Month is a great time for Moraine Park and the WTCS to showcase what technical education is all about as well as what we are doing to benefit our students, local businesses, communities and our state,” Sheila Ruhland, president of Moraine Park, said.
Manufacturing is undoubtedly a very important part of Wisconsin’s culture and economic health. In an effort to preserve this important Wisconsin tradition, Moraine Park Technical College is working to find ways to support students desiring to enter the manufacturing industry. One way we are doing this is through the Moraine Park Foundation’s FACT Initiative.

The FACT Initiative works to support Moraine Park manufacturing students by securing private dollars from business and industry and forming partnerships with local businesses. The goal of the initiative is to strengthen and grow the “gold collar” workforce through a two-fold approach – providing students with financial support to allow them to complete their degree and providing them with internship and mentoring opportunities through local business partners. With this model, students have the support they need to get a great hands-on education and industry experience while local employers gain access to highly skilled workers. To date, $270,000 has been raised and partnerships with 16 area companies have been formed to support the vision.

Moraine Park honored 16 area businesses at its FACT recognition event in February. The businesses were recognized for their generous contributions to the FACT scholarship campaign.

“When the FACT Initiative began about 18 months ago, Moraine Park knew the skilled worker shortage was prevalent not only in our district and surrounding communities, but our entire state,” Sheila Ruhland, president of Moraine Park, said during the ceremony. “In order to combat this shortage, we needed to come up with a way to increase enrollment in our manufacturing programs but, more importantly, retain these students and expedite their degree completion so employers can hire them. With this vision in mind, the FACT initiative was born.”

The following companies were honored for their contributions: Amerequip; Fond du Lac Area Foundation; J.F. Ahern Co.; Cole Manufacturing Corp.; Fives Giddings & Lewis; AT&T Foundation; Mercury Marine; Kondex Corporation; Mid-States Aluminum Corp.; Helgesen Industries, Inc.; Michels Corporation; METKO, Inc.; Ted & Grace Bachhuber Foundation, Inc.; TAB Products Co.; Bradley Corporation; and Sadoff Iron & Metal Company.
Last semester, students from the Building Trades Construction Worker and Electricity programs at Moraine Park partnered with the Habitat for Humanity of Washington and Dodge Counties to build a duplex for two deserving families. The students and habitat volunteers have been working hard to wrap up construction so the families can move in this spring. This has given the students experience in their trades and allowed them to make a positive impact on the communities in which they live and learn.

Future occupants of the new Habitat for Humanity duplex in West Bend, Sanela Weisser, left, and Jennifer Orth, right, work on staining trim for their new homes.