BAERWALD NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT

The Moraine Park Technical College District Board has named Bonnie Baerwald, vice president of finance and administrative services, the interim president of the College. Baerwald, who began her new role in January, takes over for Dr. Sheila Ruhland, who accepted the presidency position at Tacoma Community College.

Baerwald has been with Moraine Park since 1993, joining the College as senior accountant. Over the years, she has served as financial services manager and vice president of financial management and, in 2007, was named vice president of finance and administrative services.

“Moraine Park has been fortunate to have so many skilled leaders within our ranks,” said District Board President Vernon Jung. “Bonnie has provided a steady hand and exceptional financial acumen to her work at Moraine Park. Her work style is highly collaborative and her dedication to the College is second to none.

Bonnie will continue to carry our vision and mission forward, moving Moraine Park in a positive direction.”

Baerwald has provided vision and expertise in leading Moraine Park’s finance and facility operations, including fiscal reporting, budgeting, financial operations, procurement, risk management, auxiliary services and facility operations. Over the years, she has provided direction to the administration regarding a comprehensive budget totaling $83 million in expenditures.

“I am both honored and humbled to have been asked to take on the role of interim president,” said Baerwald. “Moraine Park has been my professional home for the majority of my career, and I am endlessly excited about the outstanding education that the College provides to the region and the state.”

Baerwald has an associate degree from Wisconsin Lutheran College, a bachelor’s degree in business administration – accounting from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. She has been a certified public accountant in Wisconsin since 1991.
In the few months I have served in my new capacity as interim president of Moraine Park, I have been so appreciative of the support and well wishes I have received from the community, business leaders, staff and students.

When I accepted the role of interim president, I did so knowing Moraine Park was an institution with a strong reputation for providing excellent training to meet the needs of the employers in our district and throughout the state. Innovation 2020, which is highlighted in this issue of “Community Connections,” sets forth the goals and vision for the College, and I will be working with all stakeholders to ensure these goals are met.

In January, Moraine Park received word that we had achieved reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission through the 2022-23 school year, and I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who was involved in this process.

I am proud to say that on April 30, Moraine Park will serve as one of only 10 college campuses in the nation to host the 10 Points of Light to Take Back the Night event. 10 Points of Light works to bring attention to all forms of domestic violence, and Moraine Park looks forward to partnering with them and other community organizations for this candle light vigil event. More information can be found at morainepark.edu/10points.

I also hope you will consider supporting our Foundation’s ongoing brick campaign. As part of our Fond du Lac Campus renovation project, the Moraine Park Foundation is providing an opportunity to purchase a commemorative engraved brick to be placed in the walkway near the new main entrance. All of the details are at morainepark.edu/brick.

Finally, I am excited to note “Community Connections” is moving to an electronic newsletter. Our goal with this change is to more effectively communicate with you, and we believe an electronic version will allow us to do that.

Thank you for your interest in Moraine Park. I look forward to working with you!

Bonnie Baerwald, Interim President

Moraine Park’s Automotive Technician, Automotive Technology and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic programs recently received accreditation. To achieve these coveted recognitions, the programs underwent rigorous evaluations, using nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities and equipment. “Accreditation ensures our students receive a quality education and that our business partners have properly trained applicants,” said Dr. Jim Eden, vice president of academic affairs.

The automotive programs have been accredited by The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) upon the recommendation of the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). The emergency medical programs received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

For the 20th consecutive year, Moraine Park has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada’s (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Judging of the CAFR is done by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. Organizations are required to demonstrate a constructive “spirit of disclosure” that clearly communicates a financial story and motivates potential users and user groups to read the report.

In addition, Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. reaffirmed the status of Moraine Park’s general obligation debt credit rating at Aaa. The Aaa rating reflects the College’s ability to borrow money at a reduced tax rate. The strong rating is due to a sizable tax base favorably located near major employment centers, strong financial operations that are supported by healthy reserves and average debt burden that is expected to remain manageable.
Moraine Park is proud to announce it has received reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Since submission of its System Portfolio in May 2013, Moraine Park has submitted documents and participated in other compliance activities with HLC to complete the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) reaffirmation process.

The process requires the College to participate in a quality check-up visit every seven years to reaffirm its accreditation, although this process will move to an eight-year cycle after this year. During the visit, the College is evaluated on nine academic quality improvement categories through AQIP and five criteria through the HLC.

The AQIP process is designed to assist institutions in achieving quality improvement, along with reaffirming the institution’s accredited status with the HLC. Accreditation confirms to employers and the educational community that Moraine Park has been independently reviewed and provides consistent educational programs. Accreditation also allows the College to participate in state and federal financial aid programs for student funding and increases the likelihood that college credits will transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

Moraine Park’s next AQIP Comprehensive Quality Review will take place during the 2022-23 academic year. Find out more at morainepark.edu by clicking on Accreditation under About MPTC.

Students in Moraine Park’s Nursing programs are among the first in the state to incorporate telehealth technology into their curriculum. The new technology, which lets providers and patients connect virtually, is a growing component of health care that allows patients to be comfortable at home while still receiving the proper level of monitoring and care. The school is using telehealth equipment from GrandCare Systems of West Bend, which was purchased in part with funding by a General Purpose CoreHealth Industry Grant.

“Our students learning the telehealth system gain many new experiences and are able to recognize the value of using advanced technology to effectively care for patients,” said Marylou Mercado, associate dean of nursing. “They are using telehealth technology to conduct health assessments, determine physical care needs, assess changes in overall health and monitor prescription medication effectiveness.”

The College’s telehealth equipment, which has been integrated into the existing Simulation Center on the West Bend campus, teaches students how to pin-point problems remotely using a variety of non-invasive sensors that monitor patients. Remote caregivers are able to track vitals, ensure medication compliance, view graphs, set alerts and communicate virtually with patients without impeding their lifestyle.

“Moraine Park is proactively arming students with GrandCare’s digital health, patient engagement and socialization features to allow a better, faster and more cost-effective delivery of care,” said Charlie Hillman, founder and CTO of GrandCare Systems.

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Marylou Mercado
Associate Dean of Nursing

As telehealth technology continues to gain recognition in the health care industry, the partnership between Moraine Park and GrandCare Systems will continue to provide cutting-edge educational opportunities for both students and instructors.
MISSION STATEMENT
Preparing students for success in a diverse and globally connected world.

VISION STATEMENT
A college of choice for students and a strategic partner for business and industry.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Build a supportive culture to make us an employer of choice.
- Improve student success through innovative programming, delivery and services.

- Strengthen our K-16 and community connections.
- Advance the efficient and effective use of technology.