The mission of any General Education program is to ensure students are introduced to aptitudes and proficiencies that reflect civic, cultural, global, ethical and interpersonal competencies. Through experiential education at Moraine Park Technical College – comprising Service-Learning and International Education opportunities – General Education exposes students to the professional and personal benefits of these experiences.”

— Dr. Caron Daugherty, Dean General & International Education

What is Experience-Based Education?
Experience-based education is both service-learning and international education at Moraine Park.

Service-learning is an educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity as part of a course. That activity meets identified community needs and students reflect on the service in such a way as to gain richer understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

International education includes all educational initiatives that aim to build intercultural competency, deepen awareness of the international community and develop a sense of global citizenship amongst students and education professionals.

Student Voice
“Service-learning is a really awesome concept that I was able to embrace while attending Moraine Park Technical College. By incorporating the concepts that I learned in class to real world experience while making a difference is that step that we need in the right direction. It not only teaches the concepts and information to us as students, but it also teaches us how to communicate with people and how to make a difference in someone’s life.

— Jessica Parsons (Corrections Program Graduate)

Noble Impact
- **Hours:** From March 2013 to May 2014, service-learning hours invested by Moraine Park students in our communities totaled 10,156.
- **Economic Impact:** These efforts contributed to an economic impact in our region of $216,934.

In This Report
- Blue Mountain Project in Jamaica
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- Spirit of Compassion Award
- Coordinator Wrap-up
Jamaica in January

Students spent January 2014 participating with the Blue Mountain Project (BMP) in rural Jamaica. BMP partners with the people of Hagley Gap, Jamaica, to improve the community’s health, education, and economy. Moraine Park students completed projects in renewable and solar energy, health and education. Nursing students conducted blood pressure clinics and home visits, and other students installed solar panels and worked with children on literacy projects. Before traveling to Jamaica, students collected donations through the Multicultural Club to help support Blue Mountain Project.

Fundraisers

International Education partnered with Culinary Arts and the Moraine Park Foundation to host Taste of Ireland and Taste of Wisconsin in spring 2014. These events promoted the new partnership between the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Institutes of Technology in Ireland. Attendees enjoyed regional cuisine as well as cultural displays and games. Nearly $400 was raised to support student scholarships abroad.

International Education Week

International Education Week, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

In November 2013, International Education, Diversity Relations, and the Multicultural Club hosted Taste of Jamaica on all three campuses to celebrate International Education Week. In addition, the MPTC Culinary Arts Club shared delicious treats at the Moroccan Cooking Demonstration, and International Education and Student Life sponsored a travel photo contest. Congratulations to Tanya Kurth of the West Bend campus for submitting the winning shot.

Ireland Exchange Available to MPTC Students

As students in the Wisconsin Technical College System, Moraine Park students are eligible to participate in the newly-adopted exchange between the Institutes of Technology Ireland and the WTCS.

To learn more, contact Amy Patterson at international@morainepark.edu.
Expanded Study Abroad Offerings

Moraine Park is a member of the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs! (ICISP). Through this consortium, students can earn Moraine Park credits while studying a full summer or semester abroad: Spain, Ireland, England, Costa Rica, France, Austria or China. To learn more, contact Amy Patterson at international@morainepark.edu.

German Exchange Tradition

As part of the long-standing exchange with Darmstadt, Germany, Moraine Park welcomed 15 German students and 2 German instructors to campus in October 2013. The students attended class, stayed with host families, and participated in field trips. Moraine Park students visited Darmstadt and their German friends in May 2014. If you would like to host a student, contact Amy Patterson or James Simmers at international@morainepark.edu.

Follow International Education on Facebook at International Education at Moraine Park Technical College.

(www.facebook.com/internationalmptc)
Habitat for Humanity Building Project

Seven students and two instructors, led by Donald Enders’ and his Building Fundamentals, Framing, Exterior Finish, Interior Finish and Masonry courses, invested 2,033 hours of service learning in the spring 2014 semester.

“Service-learning for Habitat for Humanity gave my students job-site experience while doing something wonderful for others. Working with the volunteers from Habitat for Humanity and the Habitat families gave my students the opportunity to work with many different people and interact. I feel that observing how the volunteers worked hard and gave their time to help others was a great influence and will make it easier for them to commit to helping others in the future.”

—Donald Enders, Building and Trades Instructor

Tasks included laying out the home on the lot; shooting elevations; forming and pouring the footings and foundation walls; doing masonry; building floors and walls; setting rafters; insulating; hanging and finishing drywall; and installing flooring, doors, cabinets and the finish trim.

Team Building & Problem Solving Class

Students in Marla Pearce’s Team Building and Problem Solving class invested 1,291 hours of service-learning during 2013-2014.

“Service-learning is an opportunity for me to engage my students not only in the process of learning but applied learning. They learn to quickly jump in and help their communities in ways they can’t imagine.”

—Marla Pearce, Human Resources Instructor

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

Moraine Park accounting program students offered free income tax assistance to members of the community. This is a great service-learning project that allows students to take what they learn from their accounting class and

AmeriCorps VISTA

The College was awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA position to begin serving in August 2013. This position focused on poverty awareness in our community. Natalie Schmitz was chosen for the AmeriCorps VISTA position.

The goal of the position was to support service-learning on campus and to partner with and provide clients of the Solutions Center access to resources to start college.

Schmitz was the lead coordinator for the Help for the Homeless Hygiene drive and Bunny Hop 5K run/walk, which are Solutions Center fundraisers. These events increased awareness of poverty issues in Fond du Lac.
Great Pink Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk

The Great Pink Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk event was developed by a group of students who wanted to make a difference in the lives of women fighting breast cancer. As a class project, the students developed a sustainable business model that allows them to budget, prepare, and execute an annual run/walk. The proceeds of the event will be given to Infinite Boundaries, a breast cancer recovery retreat program. The proceeds will go to sponsoring women to attend the 4-day retreat. The 5K Run/Walk goal is to register at least 200 participants and sponsor over 10 women from Fond du Lac County. The first event is approved by the city and will occur rain or shine Oct. 18, 2014, at 10 a.m. from parking lot B at Moraine Park Technical College. Mail-in registration forms are available at Marine Credit Union, The Classic Cut, or Moraine Park Technical College. The Morning Kiwanis of Fabulous Fond du Lac leads the way in support and sponsorship. Please like “The Great Pink Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk” page on Facebook.

Spirit of Compassion Award

Students from Brenda Schaefer’s Spring 2013 Sociology class chose the project of remodeling and furnishing the recently purchased Solutions Center Family Shelter. Hearing a presentation by a staff member from the Solutions Center opened their eyes to see that people in need are no different from anyone else, and poverty is a real issue in Fond du Lac County.

Aligning the ideas of poverty with their classroom discussions resulted in a meaningful service-learning experience. The competencies gained in the classroom were validated as the students helped families, and the melding of the competencies and service project made this experience an especially meaningful situation for everyone involved. The class was awarded with the Spirit of Compassion Award in spring 2014.
International Education 2013-14

International Education at Moraine Park allows students to build cross-cultural competence and enhance cutting-edge technical skills while studying around the world. In 2014, students studying in Jamaica completed projects in solar energy, health, and education, and students involved with the Germany exchange program learned about cultural, social, and economic topics in Europe. Given the importance of acquiring skills for the global marketplace, Moraine Park is working to internationalize curriculum and create new and affordable study abroad opportunities for students.

MPTC study abroad options include short-term programs, summer-long programs, and semester-programs. Moraine Park recently joined the efforts of Generation Study Abroad, a five-year initiative of the Institute of International Education (IIE) to mobilize resources and commitments with the goal of doubling the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade. Studies such as the GLOSSARI Project show students who study abroad have "improved academic performance upon returning to their home campus, higher graduation rates, and improved knowledge of cultural practices and context" (Redden, 2010). In addition, this research suggests that studying abroad helps, rather than hinders, academic performance of at-risk students. All students are invited to travel, serve, and learn with Moraine Park. —Amy Patterson, Communication Instructor/International Education Coordinator

Service-Learning 2013-14

This completes my first year as service-learning coordinator for MPTC, and watching the program cultivate into a formal process of faculty and students learning while serving is humbling. The community connections MPTC students and staff have was evident at our second service-learning celebration breakfast in May. Students from all three campuses highlighted how their service in the community sharpened their classroom knowledge and work-ready skills. For 2014-2015, we have goals to provide professional development training to faculty interested in incorporating service into their curriculum. In addition, we have introduced the service-learning certificate to students and have intentions to strengthen community partners in all three communities. I encourage each of us to consider how serving the community fits into our teaching and learning experience at Moraine Park Technical College.—Brenda Schaefer, Social Science Instructor/Service Learning Coordinator

Find International Education on the web at morainepark.edu/studyabroad and Service Learning at morainepark.edu/servicelearning

Like International Education at Moraine Park Technical College on Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/internationalmptc

This report was created by Natalie Schmitz, Moraine Park AmeriCorps VISTA.