

NEXT

the moraine park story

FALL/WINTER 2021, VOL. 4 ISSUE 2



INNOVATION 2025 IN ACTION

HIGHLIGHTING MORAINE PARK'S 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE WORK IT'S CULTIVATING.

\$15,297 in support to Promise and Promising Futures students.

\$21,000 in Forming Alliances to Cultivate Talent (FACT) Initiative scholarships to 22 manufacturing program students.

\$45,247 in Student Emergency Fund grants.

\$233,511 in scholarships to 337 students.



ENROLLMENT
Launched new common learner outcomes called Career and Life Skills, which will be integrated into curriculum and student activities and reflect the personal and professional skills that all graduates and employees of MPTC should embody.

REMODEL
Remodeled the Fond du Lac Campus upper O wing to consolidate and relocate the Economic and Workforce Development offices and training spaces. This also included new faculty collaboration spaces and general classrooms.

ONLINE
Implemented an online application that allows students to connect and schedule with their advisor or counselor quickly and easily.
We are growing minds, businesses and communities through innovative learning experiences.
MORAINEPARK.EDU/INNOVATION



**SCAN THE CODE
TO LEARN MORE**

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SEND ALL INQUIRIES AND SUBMISSIONS TO MARKETING@MORAINEPARK.EDU.

CATCHING UP WITH MORAINES PARK



In-person and online class options remain.



Student and community events resume.



The public is welcome back to all campuses.

Welcoming Back Our Students & Communities

Congratulations 2020 & 2021 Graduates

Educating Our Communities and Preparing Our Future Workforce

COMMENCEMENT

May 22, 2021

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center

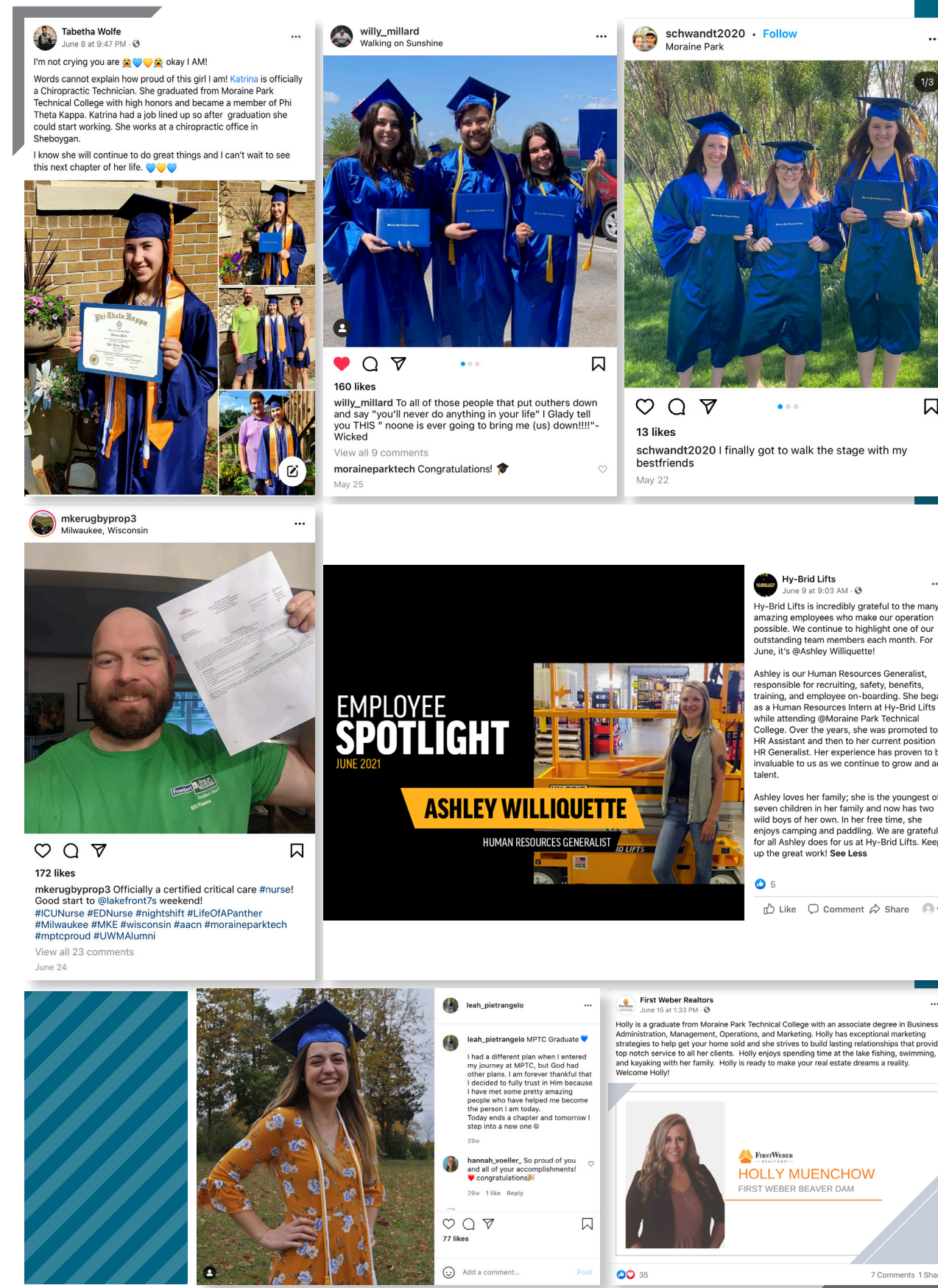
More than 800 graduates received Associate of Applied Science degrees or technical diplomas.

GED/HSED COMPLETION CEREMONY

May 27, 2021

Fond du Lac Campus

More than 200 students received GED/HSED certifications.



CONNECT WITH US



@moraineparktech

MORAINE PARK'S

2021-22 DISTRICT

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Amanda Kollmorgan, of Fond du Lac, was selected as the 2021-22 Moraine Park Technical College district student ambassador.

Kollmorgan, an active-duty communications security manager for the Army, came to Moraine Park to finish the college degree she started at a four-year university.



"I began my college journey in 2010, right after my deployment to Iraq," Kollmorgan said. "I didn't transition well and felt like another face in the crowd. I was not only looking for a great education, but also a personalized experience and a place I belonged. I immediately found that at Moraine Park."

Kollmorgan's role in the Army prepared her for the Leadership Development program, and she was able to take her classroom knowledge and implement it into her work life. She graduated with her associate degree in Leadership Development in spring 2021 and is now pursuing her accounting, technical education, and training degrees concurrently.

"All of these programs align with my current and future goals," she said. "In my retirement, I hope to own a bakery. The skills I'm learning in leadership and business will help prepare me for that big-picture goal."

Kollmorgan is also active on the Fond du Lac campus, where she is a member of the student government, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Student Veteran Association (SVA) and Phi Theta Kappa.

"For more than 14 years my entire identity has been the Army," Kollmorgan said. "I love being a soldier, but I was also looking to be part of something more. Moraine Park not only made me feel like a welcomed part of their family, but being here has

ignited passions and goals that I did not know existed before. I am excited for my future and the opportunities it holds."

Kollmorgan recently made the decision to end her active-duty service and will remain with the National Guard until her retirement in five years. She made this decision so she could be home with her family and focus on building both her educational and career portfolio. Kollmorgan also accepted an adjunct position with the College's Economic and Workforce Development department to be a Learning for Independence (LFI) instructor.

"I am beyond grateful for all the support I've received at the College," Kollmorgan said. "Specifically, from my instructor, Mary Vogl-Rauscher, who provided continuous guidance and mentorship throughout my career and educational transformations."

To be eligible for the District Student Ambassador distinction, students must be nominated by a faculty or staff member at the College, and then give a presentation to a selection committee. There were three students in the final consideration for this role.

As the selected 2021-22 District Student Ambassador, Kollmorgan will actively serve as a member of student government, advocate for Moraine Park and the Wisconsin Technical College System as a whole, assist with college activities and events, and represent the student body within the community.

"Being named the District Student Ambassador is a huge honor," Kollmorgan said. "I look forward to advocating for my classmates and sharing the many benefits of Moraine Park and a technical college education."



Did you know Moraine Park has been named a Military Times Best for Vets college for more than 10 years?

LEARN MORE AT [MORAINEPARK.EDU/VETERANS](https://morainepark.edu/veterans).





JORDYN
SCHMITT
STUDENT

CAROLE
BANSE
COMMUNITY MEMBER

Moraine Park's partnership with Interfaith is one way the College is working to connect students and employees with our communities.

In the 2021 spring semester, despite COVID-19 challenges, 53 students earned awards and logged more than 2,600 hours of service!



MAKING CONNECTIONS - BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

Moraine Park Technical College student Jordyn Schmitt, of Rubicon, found a lasting friendship through her volunteer work at Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County.

Schmitt, a first-year student in the College's Nursing program, is also part of Moraine Park's Promise program, an opportunity for debt-free tuition. As part of the program requirements, Schmitt volunteers in her community and selected Interfaith as her service site.

Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County is a community-based nonprofit organization that helps seniors in the county remain independent. Volunteers help with tasks such as transportation and grocery shopping, or simply serve as a friendly face checking in from time to time.

"I choose to provide transportation services," Schmitt said. "I enjoy helping in this way. As a nursing student, I know how essential doctor appointments are and how, at times, transportation is a barrier. I'm glad to help where I can."

It was through her volunteer work that Schmitt met Carole Banse, of West Bend. Banse is unable to transport herself and relies on the support of Interfaith's services for her vital doctor appointments.

"I don't know what I would do without this service. It has really saved me," Banse said. "It helps my family too. It was hard to always ask them to take me early or pick me up, they have jobs and it is just too much."

To learn more about Moraine Park's community engagement efforts, visit morainepark.edu/community-engagement.

Schmitt and Banse have enjoyed each other's company so much that they make sure they are paired up in Interfaith's system.

"Interfaith's system allows the selection of preferred volunteers and members, and I always select Carole right away," Schmitt said. "We have great conversations and I enjoy hearing about her life and family. We even found out that we are distantly related! I feel blessed to know her and be part of her life."

"I ENJOY HELPING THIS WAY. AS A NURSING STUDENT, I KNOW HOW ESSENTIAL DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS ARE AND HOW, AT TIMES, TRANSPORTATION IS A BARRIER. I'M GLAD TO HELP WHERE I CAN."

The relationship being cultivated between Schmitt and Banse is exactly what Moraine Park's student impact initiatives hope to achieve. A seemingly small student contribution within the community that creates a lasting impact.

"Jordyn and I have such good conversations when we get together even with the age difference," Banse said. "She fits in so beautifully and she doesn't treat me like an old lady. She is always bubbly and perks me up. I am very thankful."

The pandemic halted Interfaith's services for a while, but when they restarted in February 2021, Schmitt and Banse were excited to resume their normal routine.

"I would have never guessed that I would make a lifelong friend through this opportunity," Schmitt said. "My advice to others is to open yourself up, give it a try and never put an age limitation on friendship."

Schmitt is expected to graduate in May 2023. She hopes to continue volunteering for Interfaith and driving Banse throughout her schooling.

“IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE STARTING OUT AT MORAINÉ PARK AS A RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR STARTING YOUR CAREER OVER, WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU HERE AT THE COLLEGE AND PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE DISTRICT TO HELP YOU GAIN EMPLOYMENT.”

— Armin Rashvand, associate dean of manufacturing



CONNECTING

with our

COMMUNITIES

Nestled in the rolling hills of semi-rural West Bend, just north of the bustling downtown district, is Moraine Park's West Bend campus — known to many as a continuous resource for growth and potential within Washington County.

This campus is one of three, and is home to manufacturing, healthcare, trades, information technology, and graphic design, among other programs and areas of focus. However, change is always evident within the walls of all Moraine Park campuses.

“We grow and change as the needs of our communities grow and change,” Pete Rettler, dean of the West Bend campus, said. “We have great things in the works, and we look forward to watching those unfold.”

Armin Rashvand, associate dean of manufacturing, joined the College more than a year ago and is working to make lasting connections between both K-12 district schools

and local business and industry. Currently, the manufacturing programs such as CNC/Tool and Die Technology, Welding, Quality and Advanced Manufacturing, Architectural Technology and Mechanical Design all have significant needs in the regional market. The job placement for current graduates is at nearly 100 percent, and many students find employment well before commencement day.

“There is so much opportunity in our area,” Rashvand said. “It's important for us to remain connected so we can continue to understand the current and future job needs in our area. We then can help provide high school students with educational opportunities that will help fill those careers.”

To help with these efforts, Rashvand is working with the College's K-12 coordinator, local school districts and Moraine Park faculty to offer dual credit opportunities.

“We currently have dual credit programs in place at many of our local high schools, but

there is room for growth throughout our district,” Rashvand said. “My overall goal is to create a clear pathway that will offer K-12 students the opportunity to graduate high school with a technical diploma.”

Slinger High School, under the direction of Superintendent Daren Sievers, has been a longtime partner with Moraine Park, and the collaboration has proven to be beneficial to both students and the local economy.

“Our mission statement at Slinger High School articulates the importance of college and career

readiness for all. It is in the best interest of our students to offer many dual credit opportunities and make the most of their high school years before they begin their post-secondary education,” Sievers said. “This is why we value our dual credit partnership with Moraine Park Technical College. Each student has a unique pathway, and it is our job to provide options and to challenge their potential by exposing them to a variety of choices. Moraine Park is a great option that not only provides opportunity, but it also nearly guarantees job placement and career readiness for those who graduate.”



Pete Rettler, Dean of Moraine Park Technical College West Bend Campus

Currently, Slinger High school offers 11 dual credit classes through Moraine Park. Rashvand is also working with local businesses to ensure current manufacturing programs fulfill their needs.

“We have wonderful community partnerships,” Rashvand said. “The support for the West Bend campus and Moraine Park

as a whole is evident. My goal is to build upon those partnerships and gain new ones, so we can continue to fulfill the evolving needs of our community’s workforce.”

One partnership that has been vital to the growth of Moraine Park’s students and communities is Mayville Engineering Company (MEC).

“It’s an exciting time to be in manufacturing, to apply automation to improve a process and provide the employees with tools to allow them to accomplish more,” Mike Look, plant manager at MEC, said. “Automation positions are higher level and higher paying positions, and they improve ergonomics and reduce fatigue. Well-trained and empowered employees utilizing new technology is how MEC builds our brand and our customers success.”

The pathway from K-12 to Moraine Park and then to the workforce is a great way to fuel our local economy. However, these programs and our economy are also dependent on our adult student population as well.

“MY OVERALL GOAL IS TO CREATE A CLEAR PATHWAY THAT WILL OFFER K-12 STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL WITH A TECHNICAL DIPLOMA.”



“There is a significant need,” Rashvand said. “It doesn’t matter if you are starting out at Moraine Park as a recent high school graduate or starting your career over, we have opportunities for you here at the College and partnerships within the district to help you gain employment.”

Rashvand and Rettler are well connected within the Moraine Park district, and while great work has been done, they have big goals to fulfill.

“The work being done here influences the lives of many,” Rettler said. “You can expect to see significant growth in the near future. It is our job to fill the industry needs and we plan to do just that.”

MANUFACTURING PROGRAMS

- Architectural Technology
- CNC/Tool and Die Technology
- Mechanical Design Technology
- Quality and Advanced Manufacturing (Robotics/Automation)
- Welding

morainepark.edu/manufacturing

COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF FUTURE FIREFIGHTER & EMT STUDENTS

Moraine Park Technical College's Fire/EMT program received a generous donation from Woodland Fire Department. Last fall, the Woodland Fire Department announced their plans to end their community services and donated their department fire engine to Moraine Park. The engine was presented to the College last March during a small event at the Woodland Fire Department.

"We hope this donation will help Moraine Park fill the industry with new firefighters," Tony Roethle, Woodland Fire Department chief, said. "There is a need for volunteer firefighters - without them, fire stations simply can't survive."

This year, the College has an increased number of students in the firefighter certification courses.

"We are pleased to see this increase," Barb Jascor, dean of Health and Human Services, said. "We have been working hard to promote and support our local fire departments, and we hope to continue to see enrollments increase in the future."

The College will use the donation for hands-on student learning, to allow students to train on equipment comparable to what they will see on the job.

Woodland Fire Department is one of many generous community partners.

To learn how you can support our future community leaders, visit

MORAINEPARK.EDU/FOUNDATION.

"The donation of the fire truck complements the existing simulation equipment used for Fire/EMT students," Jascor said. "Currently, we have both a full-sized ambulance and apartment, along with high fidelity patient simulators that many of our health and human service programs utilize. The addition of the fire truck allows further hands-on training for both existing and future firefighters throughout the Moraine Park district."

The ambulance and apartment simulation were added last summer, as part of the Beaver Dam campus remodel project, and have been a vital addition to the curriculum.



"Hands-on learning offers an easy pathway from the classroom to career," Jascor said. "We rely on our community partnerships, and the generosity of the Woodland Fire Department will directly impact fire training offered within our district for many years."

The Woodland Fire Department ceased operations effective Jan. 2021, and staff who elected to relocate are serving the Iron Ridge and Neosho departments. Additionally, Hartford, Iron Ridge and Neosho fire departments are now serving the community of Woodland.





Finding a Home at Moraine Park

Edi Gbordzi came to Fond du Lac looking to find a place to call home and an extended family of friends and supporters. In 2001, he immigrated from Ghana, West Africa, to Madison, Wisconsin. There he taught and performed African dance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and throughout the community.

“A goal in coming to the U.S. was to go back to school and become connected in my community,” Gbordzi said. “Teaching the art of

African dance allowed me to be surrounded with others who had those same goals. This support group continued to motivate me.”

Gbordzi later relocated to California and welcomed his two children. In 2011, they moved to Fond du Lac to be closer to family. Once Gbordzi got settled in the area, he decided it was time to act upon his goal to pursue higher education. He connected with the Student Success Center at Moraine Park to begin his journey.

“I learned that my transcripts from Africa didn’t cover all the areas needed for a GED diploma here in the United States,” he said. “At first, that was frustrating, but the staff were so helpful and great to work with. I ended up learning so much and that prepared me to further my education.”

In spring 2019, Gbordzi earned his GED diploma and decided to enroll in the Business Management associate degree program at the College.

“My parents owned their own business in Africa for many years,” Gbordzi said. “Their years of hard work inspired me to follow in their footsteps and pursue a business degree.”

Gbordzi is embracing the full college experience and has become a familiar face on the Fond du Lac campus.

Gbordzi is a dedicated student and was awarded the Basic Education Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year.

“**MORaine PARK IS HELPING TO PREPARE ME FOR BOTH MY FUTURE CAREER AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**”

“I’m grateful Moraine Park offered me a place to learn and grow,” Gbordzi said. “My overall goal is to find a good job so I can support my family. It is also important to me to continue learning. Moraine Park is helping to prepare me for both

my future career and higher educational opportunities.”

Gbordzi is scheduled to graduate in May 2022 and looks forward to influencing the local communities.

“I enjoy being involved,” he said. “I am a member of student senate, diversity club and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Club. I also enjoy volunteering and participating in student life events.”

Gbordzi found his pathway at Moraine Park, and you can, too!

Learn more at
[MORAINEPARK.EDU/CAREER-CENTER](https://morainepark.edu/career-center).

AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- 01 AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN
- 02 AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALIST
- 03 PARTS SPECIALIST
- 04 SERVICE ADVISOR/WRITER

Moraine Park's Automotive program is second to none. With state-of-the-art equipment, hands-on learning, and class sizes that allow for individualized attention, students leave MPTC with a well-rounded education, ready to work in the field.

"Our students get to experience working in the shop before they even graduate," Jim Daniels, automotive technology instructor, said. "Our auto lab welcomes vehicles from the community and our students take care of the full customer service lifecycle."

Students learn to diagnose, service and repair through hands-on training from experienced professionals. Graduates repair all eight major systems of the automobile through advanced auto technology which includes engine mechanical, engine performance, automatic transmission/transaxle, manual drive train, brakes, steering and suspension, climate control and electrical systems.

"We are an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accredited industry," Daniels said. "We work with our industry leaders to make sure our curriculum and training is top notch, and in turn they know that MPTC graduates are quality technicians."



Behind the Scenes - THE EMPLOYEES OF MORAINES PARK



Steve Pepper
STUDENT VETERANS SPECIALIST

"I began my employment journey while enrolled at Moraine Park as an All College Experts (ACE) student. I was mainly responsible for greeting individuals, providing assistance to students and the community, and supporting the student services and admissions departments with routine tasks. I immediately felt welcomed and was able to learn essential functions of the College. Fortunately for me, the position of Student Veterans Specialist was vacant, and since I was able to demonstrate my abilities and as a veteran, I was encouraged to apply. Five years later, I still feel welcomed and continually try to prove my value to the College. Allowing me the opportunity to take on additional roles outside my area of expertise while never forgetting one of my primary responsibilities is to make everyone who walks through our doors feel welcomed. And that's why I enjoy working at Moraine Park."



Sandy Botham
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT SPECIALIST

"I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to work at Moraine Park Technical College and most importantly directly with the hardworking, driven students who are accomplishing their academic goals. From the very first day, everyone made me feel welcome and appreciated. I love working with this small tight-knit MPTC family in West Bend. There is a strong sense of community, and everyone works together to help our students grow personally and professionally!"



Leslie Laster
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

"My favorite part about working for Moraine Park is the support I have to facilitate tough conversations, fun trainings and book clubs rooted in diversity, equity and inclusion as well as the amazing team I work with. I have truly felt incredibly welcomed here and look forward to coming to work each day."

Become part of Moraine Park's mission.
MORAINEPARK.EDU/JOBS



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STARTING OUT,
OR STARTING OVER,
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

GET STARTED
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