

NEXT

 MORaine PARK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

the moraine park story

FALL/WINTER 2023, VOL. 6 ISSUE 2



Start Here, Go

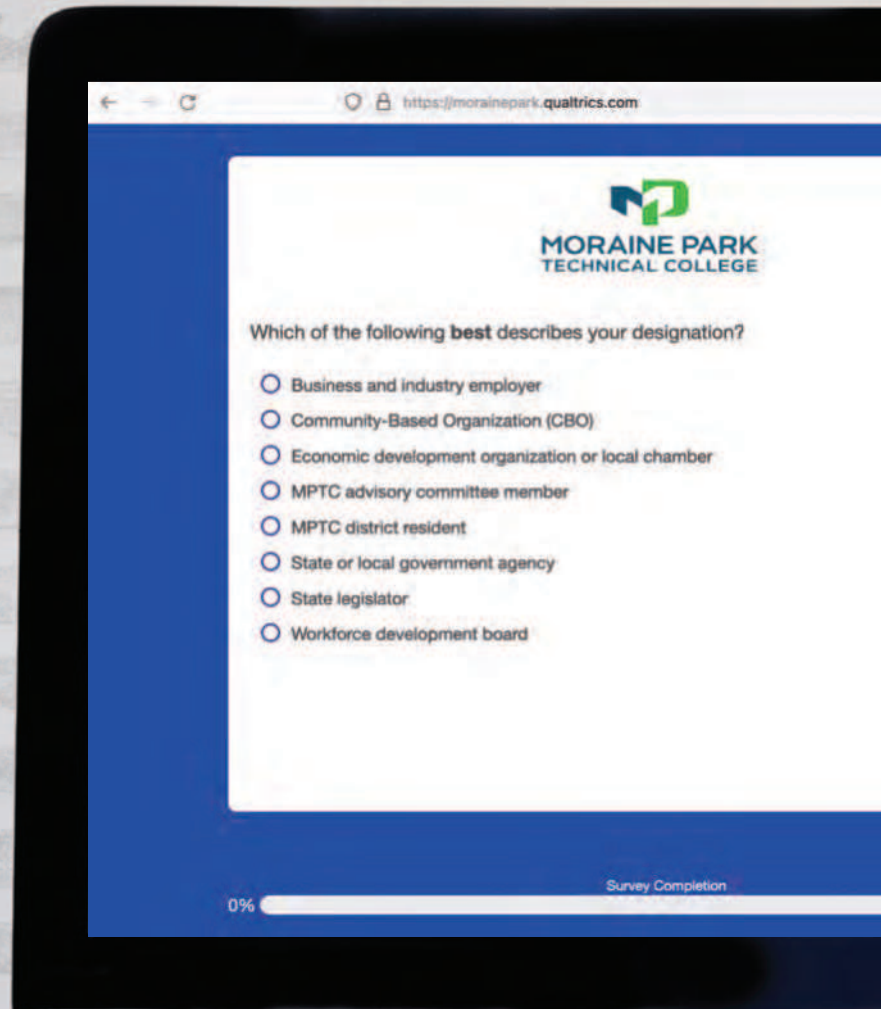
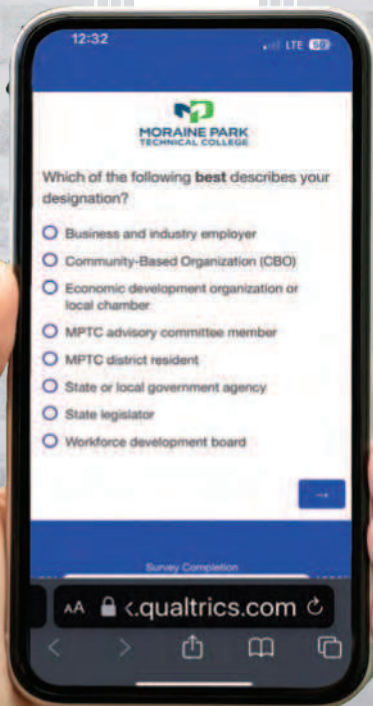
Anywhere!

MORaine PARK WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Moraine Park is seeking input for its 2025-2030 strategic plan—and your voice as a community member matters. Scan here to take an online survey by Nov. 1.



morainepark.edu/survey



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Ambitious

Ambassador



Mailia Bachleitner
District Student Ambassador

After high school, Mailia Bachleitner married her best friend, bought a house, started a family, adopted a dog and had a steady job. However, despite her picture-perfect life, she still knew something was missing.

Her current job lacked the opportunity for growth, and she wanted more for herself. When she graduated high school and started her family, her priority became being a mother, but ten years later she developed new career aspirations.

"In comparison to four-year universities, Moraine Park was more affordable," Bachleitner said. "I was also able to complete my desired program online. For me, being a successful student also meant having smaller classes. As a mother and full-time employee, these advantages, as well as the support from those closest to me, encouraged me to pursue my dreams."

Bachleitner's long-time video game hobby led her to enroll in the [IT Software Development program](#).

"I've always dreamed of creating my own video game," Bachleitner said. "Now that my sons are old enough to play with me, I have rediscovered that passion. I love connecting with my family in this way, and I want to create a game that families can enjoy together as mine has."

In addition to going back to school, being a mother and working full-time, Bachleitner serves as Moraine Park's District Student Ambassador.

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. As the selected 2022-23 District Student Ambassador, Bachleitner will 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.

She also involves herself by serving as the Vice President of the Beaver Dam Student Senate, Parliamentarian of District Student Government, President of the IT Club, and Content Manager and Vice President of Wisconsin Student Government.

"I enjoy learning and higher education," she said. "My kids think I am superwoman, and I want to keep inspiring them. I hope to continue my education until I am financially stable enough to support my family."



A man with short brown hair and a goatee, wearing a white polo shirt with a green and blue logo on the left chest and blue jeans, stands in a large industrial or laboratory setting. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a high ceiling with exposed steel beams and large windows, with various pieces of equipment and machinery visible in the distance.

In the Lab with *Joe Thurin*

Cosmetology, welding, culinary arts, business—whatever the program, Moraine Park prides itself on employing industry expert instructors. Joe Thurin, a Moraine Park CNC/Tool and Die instructor, left the industry for the opportunity to carry his expertise forward and educate the next generation of machinists.

Thurin, from Richfield, WI, turned down a scholarship opportunity to play Division II football after high school because he was eager to get into the trades.

“My love for the trades started in high school,” Thurin said. “Hartford Union High School had the resources to show me a career path for my future. From the machines they had in the labs to the design software they provided—my eyes were opened to a thriving career and endless opportunities in machining, design and engineering.”

Thurin attended Waukesha County Technical College after high school and received his two-year technical diploma in the Tool and Die program. Upon his graduation, he received scholarships from WE Energies and the Richfield



“ COMING FROM THE INDUSTRY, YOU DIDN'T ALWAYS GET THE REWARD LIKE TRAINING PEOPLE GIVES YOU,” THURIN SAID. “IN THE INDUSTRY, MACHINES DON'T TALK. MACHINES DON'T HAVE FEELINGS. MY PASSION IS MY BACKGROUND IN TOOL AND DIE, SO WHEN I CAN PASS THAT KNOWLEDGE ONTO STUDENTS, THAT IS WHAT DRIVES ME. ”

Lions Club to continue his education. With nothing holding him back, Thurin enrolled in Moraine Park's CNC/Tool and Die Technologies program.

He attended classes on Moraine Park's West Bend Campus and graduated in 2003. While going to school, Thurin worked at Omega Tool and Behren's Tool and Die during nights and in the summer. He continued his career at Behren's Tool and Die for more than 15 years.

“Working part-time while in school provided me opportunities and gave me the hands-on experience I needed to see what direction I wanted to pursue in the field,” Thurin said. “I am deeply indebted to my Behren's Tool and Die family for their support and training. I thank them for taking a chance on me and allowing me to grow into the man I am today.”

In 2017, Thurin left the industry when he was presented with the opportunity to teach in Moraine Park's CNC/Tool and Die program.

“The moment I stepped back on Moraine Park's campus for my interviews, I knew it was a fit for me,” Thurin said. “This was a 180-

degree career change. I already understood the content and material, but figuring out how to deliver it to my students in a way they would absorb and retain was a huge learning curve.”

Thurin started his seventh year teaching at Moraine Park this fall.

“My favorite part of my job is passing on my passion and knowledge to the next generation of tool and die makers and machinists,” Thurin said. “It is about the students. I put my heart and soul into my classroom. It is the best feeling hearing all the success stories years later about where my students' careers have taken them and the accomplishments they have achieved in this fast-paced industry.”



**Moraine Park is a great place to learn and work!
Explore MPTC career opportunities at
[MORAINEPARK.EDU/JOBS](https://morainepark.edu/jobs).**

A man in a green polo shirt stands at a podium with a laptop, gesturing while speaking to an audience. The audience is seen from behind, seated in rows. The background is a soft-focus stage setting with green and blue lighting.

The Spanish *Solution*

Meeting the Workforce Needs

Businesses rely on a skilled workforce, and in the face of constant change, developing talent and fostering innovation is imperative. Moraine Park strives to meet the needs of local businesses, and in October 2022, Moraine Park's training partnership with Karavan Trailers offered new solutions to unforeseen challenges.



When giving presentations to his staff, Karavan's owner, Doug Clark, typically provided Spanish-translated slides for his Hispanic employees. While this seemed to work fine, Clark knew there had to be a more effective strategy out there.

Karavan's partnership with Moraine Park to offer supervisory training gave Clark the opportunity to try something new. To ensure that Karavan's Spanish-speaking employees received the full training experience, the course was offered in Spanish—a first for both the College and Karavan Trailers. The increase in engagement from Spanish-speaking employees was noticed immediately.

"The engagement from participants is exponentially better than when they receive information through translation," Clark said.

“The ability to hear tone of voice and voice inflections offers a comfort level beyond compare. Plus, the willingness to offer training in a language other than English shows employees that everyone is welcome and can advance in their profession at Karavan.”

The majority of Karavan’s team is Spanish speaking. Of the company's 11 production lines, eight of them are run exclusively by Spanish speakers.

“This training has brought an increased recognition that Karavan is committed to opportunities for those who may speak a different language, and those opportunities are available to people who work hard and show initiative,” Clark said.

Karavan is not the only local business adapting to meet employee needs. With an 87 percent Spanish-speaking workforce, Specialty Cheese partnered with Moraine Park to offer Critical Core training and Microsoft Excel Level 1 fully in Spanish.



“It is important to our company to offer training in the language that employees understand,” Patty Sanchez-Walker, human resource manager at Specialty Cheese, said. “We care about our employees, and we want them to succeed in their jobs and grow in our company. Offering the trainings in Spanish has a huge impact on the business because our employees are more proactive, their performance improves and overall training creates good morale in the departments.”

Earlier this year, Seneca Foods partnered with Moraine Park to offer Spanish in the Workplace and Supervision 101 in Spanish.



Start Here, Go


Anywhere



Our world has seen drastic changes in the last 20 years, and higher education is no different. Gone are the days when obtaining a college degree is one set path. Today, your journey can be as unique as you are—and more affordable than ever before.

In 2022, Moraine Park was approved by the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents to offer [Associate of Arts \(AA\)](#) and [Associate of Science \(AS\)](#) liberal arts degrees. This collaboration has been long desired by Moraine Park and other technical colleges in the Wisconsin Tech College System (WTCS), as it offers a clear pathway for those with associate degrees to seamlessly continue education at a four-year partner institution with a confirmed junior status.

“Starting at Moraine Park allows students to complete their general studies for a fraction of the cost, with smaller class sizes, extensive student support and guaranteed transfer credits to one of our partner schools,” Dr. Fred Rice, associate vice president of academics at Moraine Park, said. “The liberal arts coursework in these degrees is designed to deepen a student’s ability to think creatively and critically, increase their understanding in a wide range of subjects, broaden their perspective and enhance their communication skills. The cost-friendly value of getting this education at Moraine Park, along with updated campuses, smaller student/teacher ratios and classes available online, makes this a great local option for students and their families.”



Locally, Moraine Park has signed agreements with Lakeland University, UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Oshkosh. In June, the College finalized its 20th program-specific university transfer agreement, and there are approximately 19 more in the works, including collaborations to develop pre-major emphases.

“In today’s economy, employers are increasingly looking for employees with strong critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills,” Dr. Rice said. “A liberal arts education can help students develop these skills and become more marketable to employers, as well as making it easier for them to continue their education at a four-year university.”

Students who elect to pursue an associate degree at Moraine Park as the first step of their education will save thousands annually compared to a private or public four-year college. The College began offering AA and AS liberal arts degrees in the fall of 2022, and more than 50 students have taken advantage of the opportunity.



Riley Hebein—MPTC to UW-Stevens Point

Riley Hebein of Port Washington is taking full advantage of Moraine Park's associate of arts transfer degree program. Come spring 2024, he will be part of one of the program's first graduating classes.

"I chose to come to Moraine Park because I felt it would be the best and most affordable education I could get," Hebein said, "I also knew it would be a great place to complete my initial studies."

Hebein attends classes on the West Bend Campus. Upon his graduation from Moraine Park, he plans to transfer to UW-Stevens Point to earn his bachelor's degree in marketing.

"This transfer degree program is right for me because it is allowing me to ease into my college career and ultimately obtain my bachelor's degree."

After graduating from Moraine Park and UW-Stevens Point, Hebein's long term goal is to work in sports marketing for the NFL.



Riley Hebein

Moraine Park , Class of 24

Growing Opportunities

The addition of the AA and AS [University Transfer Degrees](#) enhances Moraine Park's already robust transfer opportunities.

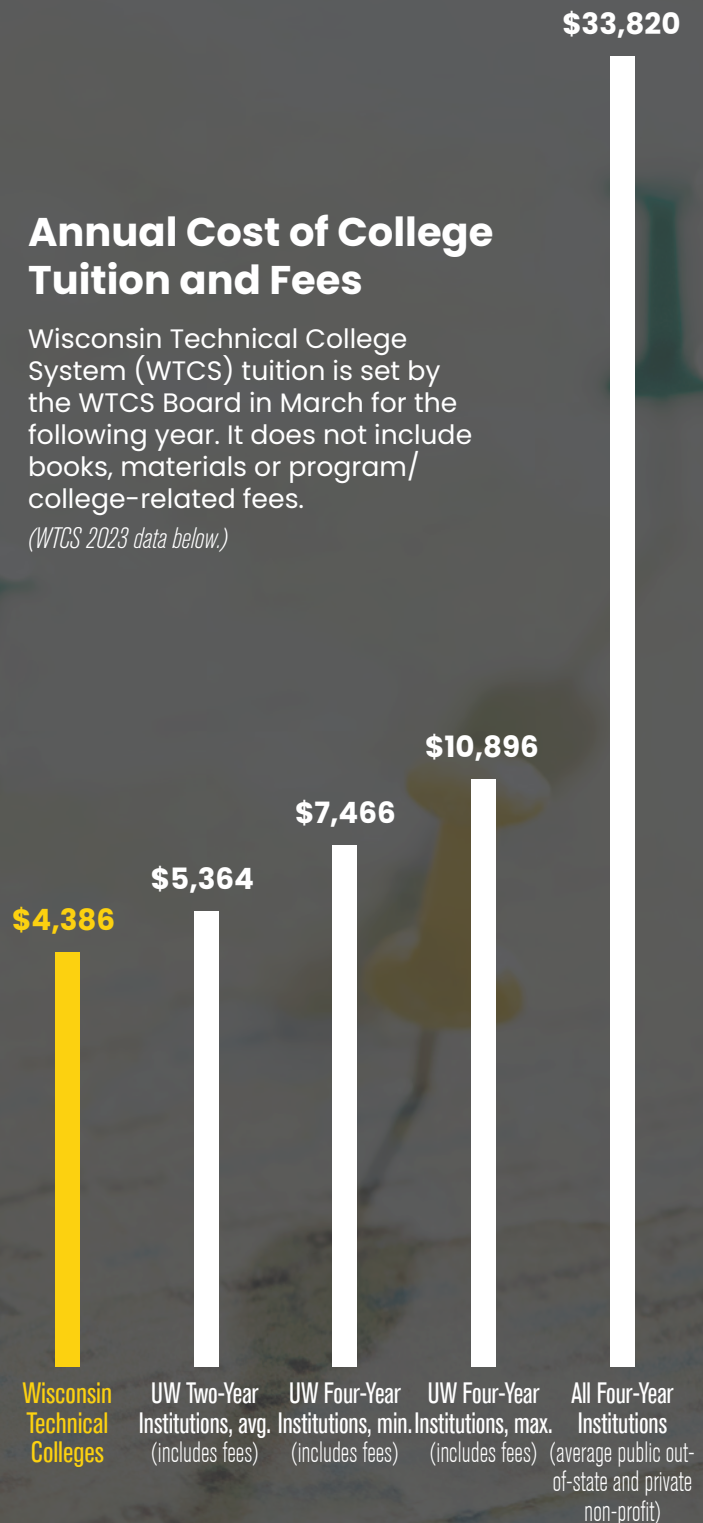
Today, the career path options are truly endless for MPTC students. Moraine Park proudly partners with the following institutions:

Bellevue University
 Carroll University
 Carthage College
 Chamberlin University
 College of Saint Scholastica
 Concordia University
 Franklin University
 Grand Canyon University
 Herzing University
 Lakeland University
 Marian University
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Mount Mary University
 National American University
 Northland University
 Purdue University-NW Hammond
 University of Phoenix
 UW-Eau Claire
 UW-Green Bay
 UW-LaCrosse
 UW-Madison
 UW-Milwaukee
 UW-Oshkosh
 UW-Parkside
 UW-River Falls
 UW-Stevens Point
 UW-Stout
 UW-Superior
 UW-Whitewater
 Viterbo University
 Waldorf University
 Wisconsin Lutheran College

Annual Cost of College Tuition and Fees

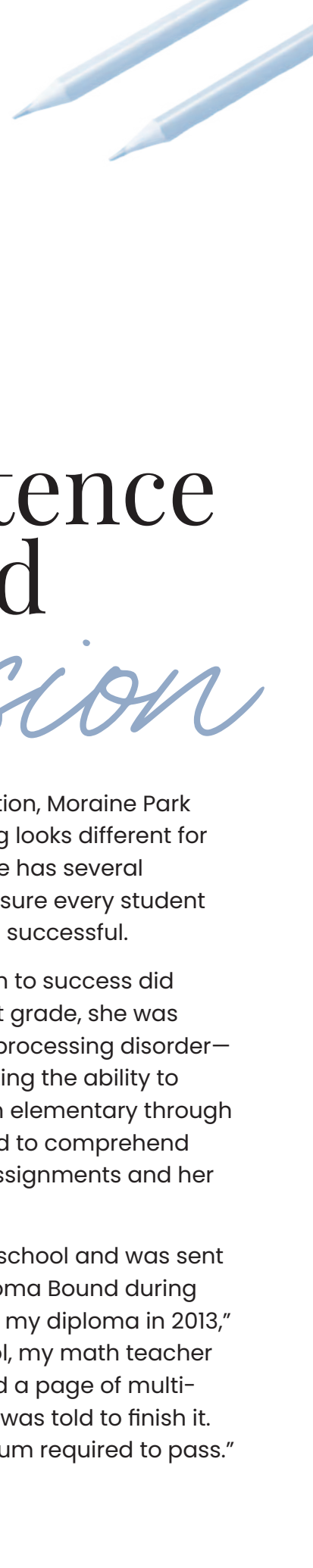
Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) tuition is set by the WTCS Board in March for the following year. It does not include books, materials or program/college-related fees.

(WTCS 2023 data below.)



Learn more about Moraine Park's University Transfer opportunities here:





Persistence and *Passion*

As an educational institution, Moraine Park understands that learning looks different for everyone, and the College has several resources available to ensure every student has the opportunity to be successful.

For Britney Olsen, the path to success did not come easy. In the first grade, she was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder—a learning disorder affecting the ability to understand speech. From elementary through high school, she struggled to comprehend teacher directions and assignments and her grades suffered.

“I barely graduated high school and was sent to a program called Diploma Bound during my senior year to receive my diploma in 2013,” Olsen said. “In high school, my math teacher gave me a calculator and a page of multiplication problems, and I was told to finish it. That was the bare minimum required to pass.”



EVENTS

In 2019, she enrolled at Moraine Park to earn her technical diploma as a Virtual Assistant. However, going back to school meant facing her learning disability head-on.

“I was nervous I wouldn’t get the support needed to be a successful student,” Olsen said. “My disability accommodations allowed me to work with the disability specialist for up to two hours a week. I would complete the homework I felt comfortable doing by myself and would receive help with the homework I struggled with.”

Each semester, Olsen introduced herself to her instructors and confirmed her accommodations; advocating for herself and ensuring her own success. In addition to her disability accommodations, Olsen utilized Moraine Park’s student success center and campus tutors to receive extra help.

“The overall experience of working with disability resources was easy, and I felt comfortable,” Olsen said. “I remember they had an orientation with students who had accommodations before the semester started. That meeting helped me understand the resources available to me. I always felt that my accommodations and disability were confidential, which made me feel respected.

I would not have passed some of my classes without the support and accommodations I had.”


Halfway through finishing her technical diploma, Olsen found a new passion for learning and decided to pursue her associate degree. In May 2021, she earned her technical diploma, and in May 2022 she earned her associate degree in the Administrative Coordinator program and an additional degree in Meeting and Event Planning.

After graduating, Olsen moved to Prescott, AZ and accepted a job at Yavapai College as a Learning Center Assistant. Three months later, she was promoted to Learning Center Specialist. She will begin pursuing her bachelor’s degree this fall.

“For a long time, I let excuses prevent me from living my life,” Olsen said. “I told myself that since I had a disability, I was not good enough or intelligent enough to go to college, become a supervisor or move across the country. I do not live by that lie anymore.”

The Steps to *Success*





After spending much of her life in Paris, Denise Herriges returned to the United States and found herself as a single mom with three young children without a college degree or career with decent wages to raise them. She was determined to return to school with the goal of earning a degree that could support her family.

Herriges was inspired by a hospice nurse who cared for her father. After he passed, she realized nursing was what she was supposed to pursue. She enrolled at Moraine Park and graduated with her associate degree in 2011.

“The Moraine Park instructors and advisers supported my goals at every step, giving me the tools needed to begin a successful career,” Herriges said. “I cherish the memories of the intensity of the nursing program, even though it was a challenging whirlwind. The amount of knowledge, growth and confidence I gained in those short years is incredible, and it is astounding how much I learned from the first clinical rotation to the last.”



Since graduating from MPTC 12 years ago, Herriges has worked at the West Bend hospital MedSurg unit, the Kraemer Cancer Center and is now the charge nurse of the Froedtert West Bend Cancer Center Infusion—the largest of the community cancer centers of the Froedtert Cancer Network.

“So many doors have opened with opportunities I never knew existed,” Herriges said. “I participated in projects that improve the quality and safety for both patients and staff in our department, hospital and network; I have chaired committees; stepped into leadership roles and obtained my master’s degree in nursing, health leadership and administration. If I had to do it all over again, I would absolutely choose MPTC as a steppingstone for an amazing and fulfilling career.”



DID YOU KNOW MPTC has thousands of alumni serving in various roles in our communities – are you one of them?

Stay connected with the College, your instructors and your fellow classmates through our newsletter.



Imagine What's Next *Together*

MPTC Capital Project Updates



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND TRADES, FOND DU LAC

The College kicked off the first of four capital projects on May 17 with the groundbreaking of the Automation, Innovation and Robotics (AIR) Center—construction led by local contractor C.D. Smith. To help in the celebration, donors, community partners and alumni gathered to give gratitude to the generosity of the many financial supporters, as well as the community members who passed the \$55 million referendum.

The AIR Center project is on track for a December 2023 completion. Phase 2, the B-Wing remodel, is scheduled to begin in January 2024.





HORICON REGIONAL CENTER

The Moraine Park District Board approved the purchase of land on Highway 33 east of Horicon—Mike Koenig Construction Co., Inc. serves as the lead contractor. The ground-breaking was celebrated at a small ceremony in late September with leaders from Moraine Park and the local community in attendance.

Currently located at the Beaver Dam Campus, the MPTC Fire Training lab and equipment are in dire need of updates to continue to support the 50+ fire stations in the College's district. The Horicon Regional Center will offer the space needed for the planned updates, as well as potential future growth.

The Horicon Regional Center will also have the space available for additional classes and training as needed.

Horicon Regional Center, 1210 Wrucke Street, is scheduled for a June 2024 completion date and will welcome its first students in the fall of 2024.

2024 AND BEYOND PROJECTS

- Manufacturing, Automation and Robotics Lab, West Bend—scheduled to begin in the spring of 2024.
- Health and Human Services Facility, Fond du Lac—scheduled to begin in early 2026.



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Moraine Park Technical College is an equal opportunity and affirmative action College. Women, minorities, those with different abilities and veterans are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit morainepark.edu/nondiscrimination. TTY/VP: Use Relay/VRS. NEXT Magazine Volume 6, Issue 2.

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Earn college credits in
high school and get a
jumpstart on your degree.

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OR VISIT MORAINEPARK.EDU TO LEARN
ABOUT OUR CLASS OFFERINGS.**

