

# NEXT

the moraine park story

FALL/WINTER 2024, VOL. 7 ISSUE 2





## MISSION

Growing minds, businesses and communities  
through innovative learning experiences.

## VISION

Your home for lifelong learning  
to achieve lifelong dreams.

## VALUES

Collaboration:  
Join forces to build the best path forward.

Impactful Learning:  
Create meaningful experiences inside  
and outside the classroom.

Continuous Improvement:  
Always strive to be better.

Inclusivity:  
Value diversity and build a sense of belonging.

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### President

Bonnie Baerwald

### Director of Marketing and Communications

Mandy Potts

### Editors

Kristina Haensgen  
Emilie Thielen

### Designer

Amanda Carow

### Photography

Nicole Seidl

### Videography

Brenda Hughes

### Contributors

Brooke Kirchberg  
Bart Putzer  
Debbie Ritger  
Adrian Vander Wille



## WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING

Taryn Reese's interest in manufacturing was sparked early, fueled by the metals and welding courses she took at New Holstein High School. This initial exposure to the world of manufacturing left a lasting impression and eventually led her to Moraine Park Technical College.

After graduating high school, Reese attended a four-year university. However, like many students during the pandemic, she found the experience challenging and decided to enter the workforce instead.

She later began looking into local technical schools and found courses at Moraine Park that aligned with her interests and career aspirations.

"I chose Moraine Park over other schools due to the programs and classes they offered," Reese said. "I remember going through the course catalog and specifically finding interest in the 3D SolidWorks class, which I had experience in."

A personal connection also influenced her decision. "My dad, Robin Reese, works as an electromechanical instructor at Moraine Park," she said. "So, I was excited to see him around and show him my improvements and what I was learning throughout the week."

Enrolling at Moraine Park in 2023, Reese began her studies in the Quality and Advanced Manufacturing Technology program. She quickly took advantage of the opportunities that came her way, securing a position as an engineering technician at Watry Industries, a die-cast factory in Sheboygan, through one of her

instructors. In this role, she works with 3D software designing fixtures for metal pieces and parts.

During the spring semester, Reese attended class and worked part-time.

"My job was able to work with me and gave me a lot of opportunity to flex my schedule," Reese said. "In the spring semester, I worked full days Monday and Thursday, and attended class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday."

Looking ahead, Reese plans to graduate and earn her associate degree. She is eager to show her family what she has achieved and intends to work full-time in the industry before furthering her education.

"My favorite part of the program so far is how approachable the teachers are," Reese said. "They're very personable, even allowing us to call them by their first names, which feels really special. It's also been wonderful connecting with other women in trades. I've gotten to know several women currently in school, and it has been impressive and inspiring to see powerful women in this field. I hope that any woman considering entering this field isn't afraid to step in and show they're capable. Every woman is capable of succeeding in this industry."

With her passion, dedication and the support of her community and Moraine Park, Reese is well on her way to a successful and fulfilling career in advanced manufacturing.

*"It's been wonderful connecting with other women in trades—it has been impressive and inspiring to see powerful women in this field. I hope any woman considering this field isn't afraid to step in and show they are capable."*



LEARN MORE  
ABOUT QUALITY  
AND ADVANCED  
MANUFACTURING  
TECHNOLOGY



## BUILDING BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

### THE PARTNERSHIP

For the past 50 years, Moraine Park has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) to offer educational programs that empower individuals behind bars to build brighter tomorrows.

The long-standing partnership has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of the district. In 2022, its impact was expanded through a new initiative with the DOC Re-entry Unit—a computer numerically controlled (CNC) mobile lab at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution that offers a 12-credit Introduction to CNC Operations Certificate.

The CNC certificate program uses the second mobile lab within the district. The welding mobile lab at Taycheedah Women's Correctional Institute has been in

operation since 2019 and provides a 12-credit Foundational Welding Certificate. As of this spring, 100 women have graduated from the program.

In addition to these mobile labs, Moraine Park offers the Foundational Welding Certificate to individuals at the John C. Burke Center in Waupun. These students attend classes at the College's Beaver Dam Campus.

Furthering the partnership with the DOC, Moraine Park works with the Division of Adult Institutions to offer programming across six correctional facilities. This fall, two new programs will be introduced: an Industrial Wiring Certificate at Fox Lake Correctional and a Culinary Assistant program at Taycheedah Women's Correctional Institute. The College also supports students enrolled in two online associate degree programs, Business Management and Small Business Entrepreneurship, across seven institutions. These programs equip individuals with employable skills and college credentials in high-demand fields, facilitating successful reintegration into the community.

"The College's partnership with the DOC's Re-entry Unit and Division of Adult Institutions demonstrates our commitment to providing educational opportunities that support rehabilitation and successful reintegration." Mary Davies, associate dean of Economic and Workforce Development at Moraine Park, said. "These programs not only offer valuable skills but also inspire hope and confidence among individuals as they prepare to rejoin their communities."

Moraine Park presented the DOC Re-entry Unit with the 2023 Employer of the Year Award at the College's annual Business and Industry Award luncheon this spring.

*"These programs equip individuals with employable skills and college credentials in high-demand fields, facilitating successful reintegration into the community."*

### PAUL JENSEN

A pivotal part of the College's partnership with the DOC is Paul Jensen, Economic and Workforce Development welding instructor at Moraine Park. Jensen's transition from manufacturing to teaching reflects the very essence of the programs he leads, proving that anyone can reshape their future with the right tools and opportunities.

Jensen earned his technical welding diploma in Cleveland and spent 15 years working in manufacturing. He has been with Moraine Park for three years teaching primarily within the DOC programs—his main role involves teaching welding at Taycheedah Women's Correctional Institute. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in career and technical education training at UW-Stout.

"Working in welding and manufacturing, I did everything by myself. So, the switch to being in front of a classroom and using different technology was a learning curve," he said. Jensen had to adapt to new tools and methods, even learning basic skills like sending emails. "It sounds kind of silly, but I had to learn how to send emails. Now it seems so simple, but before I got into teaching, I didn't own a computer."

Jensen enjoys teaching in the prison system because the students are free from external distractions and eager to learn. One of his most memorable success stories involves a student who had enrolled in multiple programs before finding a place in the Welding program.

"She was really excited to be in the Welding program, and as we progressed, she shared how thrilled she was to finally complete something she started," Jensen said. "She graduated from the

welding boot camp and was released from prison. She had applied for a welding job and was extremely nervous, feeling that she had done terribly in the interview. Despite her nerves, she got the job, and the interviewer told her it was one of the best welding tests they had ever seen. Now, she's employed as a welder—a career she never would have considered before our program."

Moraine Park's partnership with the DOC stands as a testament to the power of education in transforming lives and building stronger communities. Through innovative programs and dedicated instructors, the College continues to impact the lives of individuals seeking a fresh start.



**HEAR MORE ABOUT  
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE  
A FACULTY MEMBER AT  
MORAIN PARK ON OUR  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**





## ELEVATING FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Fire training at Moraine Park will soon receive a much-anticipated advancement with the opening of the new Horicon Regional Center, one of four major referendum projects for the College. For decades, Moraine Park has offered fire training opportunities to fuel this valuable public-service career field and expanded facilities will elevate training to the next level.

### HORICON REGIONAL CENTER TRAINING FACILITY

The Horicon Regional Center, located at 1210 Wrucke St., will open many doors of possibility for the district community and beyond—making it a top-tier fire training facility. The new building and equipment allow for one-of-a-kind and expanded training options and program growth—including the new Fire Protection Technician associate degree program, which began this fall.

### A NEXT LEVEL BURN BUILDING

Most fire training facilities offer Class A wood pallet live burn simulations. The advanced burn building will allow the College to be one of few training sites in the state to hold Class B propane and gas burn simulations. This advancement will allow training in both simulation settings, allowing future fire professionals to enter the field prepared for various fire scenarios.

### ADVANCED FIRE TRAINING TOWER

Previously housed at the Beaver Dam Campus, the new 3,840 square-foot fire training tower will allow for dedicated training, with rooms for individualized and focused training, a rooftop vent prop, three burn rooms and a balcony to observe training.

### GROWTH IN COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

Moraine Park's strong roots have created a robust higher education and skilled training presence in the district for over 110 years. The new facility will build upon that, creating a community partnership with the City of Horicon for the first time and positioning the new facility in a central location for the 50+ fire stations in the district.

*"Without the Start College Now program, I don't know where I'd be. It helped me realize that college is for me. I used to think I wouldn't fit in, but now I love the environment, the culture and the support from everyone here. That motivation made all the difference."*







## A CAREER EARLY IN THE MAKING

Recent Waupun High School graduate, Abel Kooima, is well on his way to becoming a firefighter—a goal he has passionately pursued for more than a year.

During his senior year, Kooima was one of few students selected to participate in an internship opportunity at the Waupun Fire Department, allowing him to spend school hours at the fire department, learning firehouse activities and gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

Through guidance from his mentors, Kooima recognized that an EMT license was crucial for a quick hire. Working with his advisors, he enrolled in Moraine Park's Start College Now EMT program and began attending classes on the College's Beaver Dam Campus.

"Without the Start College Now program, I don't know where I'd be," Kooima said. "It helped me realize that college is for me. I used to think I wouldn't fit in, but now I love the environment, the culture and the support from everyone. That motivation made all the difference."

After earning his high school diploma and EMT license, Kooima plans to continue his pursuit of becoming a firefighter by completing a fire program and attending paramedic school.

### THE EDUCATOR BEHIND MPTC TRAINING: AARON PAUL

Aaron Paul, the College's fire training instructor, began at Moraine Park like many local fire professionals do—as a student. After completing his training, he worked in the field, eventually serving as fire chief of the Fox Lake Fire Department. Today, he is the lead instructor at Moraine Park, playing a vital role in ensuring our communities remain safe and protected during fire and medical emergencies. During the academic year, Paul is responsible for providing training opportunities to more than 250 individuals in the district.

"I've served in many capacities in this career field, each rewarding in their own way. I'm proud to work alongside our district fire leaders to help provide the training needed to keep our communities safe," Paul said.

## BECOMING A FIREFIGHTER

There are multiple paths to consider when looking at pursuing a job in fire protection services. The field is also expanding opportunities for the youth to explore this career field before graduating high school.

### VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Volunteer firefighters are typically individuals who work in other roles for their career but desire to be connected to the local fire department and serve the expanding volunteer needs.

Depending on the station, volunteer firefighters can be paid on-call or full-time.

The benefits of pursuing the field as a volunteer firefighter:

- The future firefighter will seek opportunities with a local fire department first—securing their volunteer opportunity.
- Once hired as a volunteer firefighter, the training is covered by the hiring department and state—making the overhead cost of training very minimal for the future firefighter.

The majority of the Moraine Park district is heavily supported by volunteer firefighters.

### CAREER FIRE PROFESSIONALS

Individuals interested in the field can enroll in the two-year Fire Protection Technician associate degree program. This program provides the foundational coursework required to enter the field as a full-time firefighter.

From there, individuals with this training can take additional training, usually covered by the fire department, to advance into fire leadership.

### CADETTE PROGRAMS

Offered through Beaver Dam, Fond du Lac Fire and Rescue and Waupun, the program works in collaboration with Moraine Park, to offer introductory fire training to students ages 16-18.

### START COLLEGE NOW

Start College Now is a partnership with district high schools to provide college credit courses to students. Currently, Moraine Park offers human service courses such as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification for high school students who qualify. Both credentials can be used toward the Fire Protection Technician degree and meet the needs of entry-level volunteer firefighters.

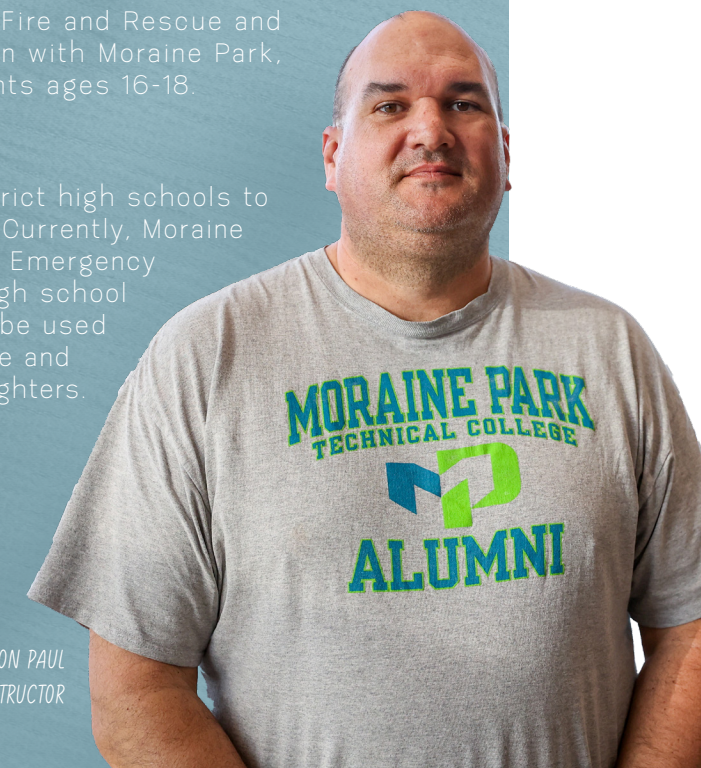
### READY TO GET STARTED?

CONTACT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

CALL (920) 924-3173

EMAIL [K12@MORAINEPARK.EDU](mailto:k12@morainepark.edu).

AARON PAUL  
MPTC FIRE INSTRUCTOR





## CRAFTING A FUTURE IN CNC MACHINING

Charles (Chaz) Dreher III, of West Bend, is an exemplary student in the CNC/Tool and Die Technologies program at Moraine Park Technical College. His journey into CNC machining showcases his passion for the field and his commitment to technical education in Wisconsin.

Dreher's interest in CNC machining began in high school when he started working part-time at his uncle's CNC shop, sparking a passion that led him to pursue further education and experience in the field. He enrolled in a mechanical design program at a technical college in 2020 but paused his studies due to the pandemic.

After moving back home and working for a year, he decided to continue his education at Moraine Park's West Bend Campus in the fall of 2023. He is set to graduate in spring 2025.

"I spent a year working to save money and gain on-the-job experience in CNC machining," Dreher said. "When I made the decision to return to college, I was determined to stay



within the technical college system. After researching options, I found Moraine Park was closer to home. Since I had already earned credits in manufacturing courses during high school that were transferable to Moraine Park, enrolling became a straightforward decision."

Dreher's commitment to technical education and his community has been recognized through his selection as Moraine Park's 2024-25 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 give a presentation to a selection committee. As the District Student Ambassador, Dreher will actively serve as a member of student government, advocate for Moraine Park and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) as a whole, assist with college activities and events and represent the student body within the community.

In addition to his ambassadorship, Dreher served as the West Bend student senate president, CNC Club president and was elected as the parliamentarian for the WTCS student government board.

"I love the technical college system because it's affordable and provides top-notch education," Dreher said. "Honestly, I believe it's one of the best higher education systems in the state due to its flexibility and inclusivity. Whether you're fresh out of high school, midway through your career or a single parent, anyone can come here to gain valuable job knowledge and develop their skills."

Currently working at Gauthier Biomedical in Grafton, Dreher looks forward to a promising future in CNC machining. He dreams of graduating, laying down roots and possibly returning to Moraine Park as an instructor someday.

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MPTC ALUMNI EDUCATING FUTURE NURSES

At Moraine Park, the commitment to providing quality education is a top priority—and no one knows this better than the students who have learned within the walls of MPTC campuses. The College has a robust alumni group of thousands of individuals who work right here in the community—fueling the local economy, and this includes Moraine Park.

Many employees at MPTC started their education within the very walls they are now fulfilling their careers, and at the College's Beaver Dam Campus, this includes all five nursing educators. Kim Lisko, Sarah Bergemann, Amy Hensel, Maggie Laubenstein, and Cathy Bosch make up the entire nursing



education team at Moraine Park's Beaver Dam Campus—each bringing something different to the classroom. Their one similarity, however, is they all carry their MPTC student and alumni experiences forward as they educate the next generation of nurses.

"The start of my nursing career was extremely influential," Bergemann, said. "I was a nontraditional student and a little reluctant at first but was embraced and supported. It was a breath of fresh air having the varying ages of the students because we ended up learning from each other and our different experiences."

Each Moraine Park campus has a set of nursing educators, and it is no secret that the College hires top-notch educators.

"What's unique about the five of us is that we know the student perspective," Laubenstein said. "We have sat in these seats, and I tell students all the time that I know how hard they are working and how hard this program is because I have done it. My Moraine Park education set the foundation for my career and is what made me fall in love with the profession."

It was clear to them that their educational journey would continue beyond MPTC.

"Being a Moraine Park alumna helps to make me more relatable with my students," Bosch said. "I like to tell the story of how I started at Moraine Park and worked to build my career from there."

While each pathway beyond the College was different, they remain firm that achieving an education from Moraine Park is equivalent to any other nursing school in the state. "When nursing students graduate, they must pass the national nursing exam, NCLEX," Lisko said. "All RNs take the same test,

*"My Moraine Park education set the foundation for my career and is what made me fall in love with the profession."*

regardless of their degree credentials. Our nursing students, who will earn an Associate of Applied Sciences degree, will take the test alongside those earning a Bachelor of Science degree."

The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) is a test administered by the State of Wisconsin that determines if a nursing candidate can provide safe and effective patient care. Upon passing, they immediately earn their Registered Nursing license credential. For educational institutions, achieving an above average NCLEX pass rate is a direct reflection of the level of skilled training and overall career preparation, and Moraine Park nursing graduates have earned that achievement year after year.

"I'm most proud of the quality of nurses we provide to our communities," Bosch said. "The test or the credential does not come any easier just because they chose a two-year degree pathway. In fact, it is quite the opposite, and their ability to become qualified nurses in two years reflects a significant amount of dedication and hard work."

It is clear the entire group holds immense pride for both Moraine Park and their nursing

career, and they are a tight-knit unit, each working to better the program, each other and each student.

"What's great about Moraine Park specifically is that we are community-focused," Hensel said. "We are very connected to our local health care systems—some still work as RNs in our community. Our students are in clinical and at the bedside in our local facilities in the first semester. These relationships help our students to see the connectivity between our communities, the College and our local health care systems."

Each year, MPTC welcomes more than 100 new nurses to the local community and that commitment is exactly what brought the group of five back to Moraine Park as educators—to give back what was once given to them.

"Our commitment to our students and community is two-fold," Laubenstein said. "We take care of our students like we would our patients—teaching them to become great nurses, and in turn, they will take care of those within our communities—and someday they will take care of us."





## GED TO REGISTERED NURSE

"It has been 15 long years since my high school class graduated without me," Delilah Hernandez said at her 2018 GED graduation ceremony. "But the length of time it may have taken me to complete this achievement is not a relevant factor for me tonight. What is relevant is that it has been accomplished."

These words marked the beginning of an inspiring journey for Hernandez, who has since achieved more than she ever imagined. In 2017, while seven months pregnant, she decided to prioritize her education for the sake of herself and her children.

She attended Moraine Park's General Educational Development (GED) and High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) orientation—her first step toward a brighter future.

Seven years later, she not only completed her GED but also became a mother of three and earned an associate degree in nursing from Moraine Park.

"After earning my GED, I thought, 'Gosh, I really can do this,'" Hernandez said. "So, I decided to take my education further. When I chose nursing, I was

nervous because I was never good at math, but I knew it was something I could do. The Moraine Park faculty played a big role in me learning about myself and what I was capable of. There was nothing stopping me."

Hernandez's hard work paid off when she was hired as a nurse on the med-surg unit at Froedtert Hospital in West Bend even before graduating—a testament to her dedication and the support she received from Moraine Park.

Hernandez walked the stage at Moraine Park's Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony and attended the West Bend Campus Nursing Pinning Ceremony with her family.

"I'm very grateful for Moraine Park," she said. "Although it's been a long journey, I've been supported along the way, and I'm so excited for this new chapter in my life."

*"The Moraine Park faculty played a big role in me learning about myself and what I was capable of. There was nothing stopping me."*





## A COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

For more than 110 years, Moraine Park Technical College has been a beacon of opportunity and transformation, known for its commitment to not only providing academic excellence but also serving those who have served our country. This commitment to veterans has been longstanding, serving as a reminder that at Moraine Park, an educational or professional career can be tailored to fit the unique needs of veterans and their families.

This dedication to veterans is embodied by individuals like Scott Lieburn, Moraine Park's dean of students, who joined the college in 2011. Lieburn was an active reserve member of the Air National Guard and has a unique military experience that has helped bring leadership and resilience to his role at Moraine Park.

In 2019, Lieburn received a call to serve at his unit in Madison—an active-duty assignment expected to span six months. Three months into his assignment, he was placed on a recall to the Air Force active-duty list—extending his call.

"After I received the recall, it was unknown how long my activation would be," Lieburn said. "Everyone at the College was supportive and understanding. My team stepped up to fill in for me when I was away and stayed connected with me, making me feel like I was still part of the team."

His active-duty assignment ended up spanning nearly five years. Lieburn retired from the United States Air Force on June 1, 2024, officially ending his 36-year military career.

"Moraine Park has been a perfect example of a military-friendly employer," Lieburn said. "My experience as a deployed employee veteran was wonderful, and I decided to show my gratitude by nominating the College for an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) award."

The ESGR awards are nominated at the state level, and Lieburn submitted three different award nominations—the College received word in April that all three had been selected as winners.

The College received the Pro Patria Award, the highest recognition given by an ESGR State Committee to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve; the Student Services team received the Seven Seals Award, recognizing their organizational

achievement, stepping up to fill in for Lieburn's extended leave; and, Kim Schwamn, who covered Lieburn's duties as dean of students, received the Patriot Award, which recognizes the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures.

"The initial plan was to maintain the status quo. However, as his absence extended, I stepped into the role and began to make it my own," Schwamn, director of student development/Title IX coordinator, said. "Receiving the Patriot award was absolutely humbling. I was astounded when I found out about it, as I believe there are many others more deserving. I just stepped in and did what needed to be done."

The College was also nominated for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, a national recognition, and was among the top ten nationwide.

Lieburn hopes more employers will look to Moraine Park to navigate the relationship and support a deployed employee veteran.

"It is important for employers to understand being in the guard or reserve means you could be called at any time, and I was a perfect example of that," Lieburn said.

Lieburn returned to the College in June 2024 to reinstate his employment, part of the ESGR agreement between an activated guard or reserve member and their employer.

"The College is thrilled to welcome Scott back after his military service leave, and we are grateful to have his expertise on campus once again. We were proud to support him during his service to our country," Beth McCreary, associate vice president of talent, said.

While each veteran's experience is unique, a lot was learned from Lieburn's deployment.

"Scott has personally taught me about the transition from military life to civilian life and the struggles that some individuals might have," Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park president, said. "I wanted him to feel welcome, have a sense of belonging and stay connected to the College. I made a point to reach out to him during his deployment because not only has he mentored me about military life, but he is also a dear friend."

Lieburn's journey emphasizes the importance of communication, understanding and support from employers, setting a standard for how institutions can positively impact the lives of all military-connected individuals. Moraine Park will continue to embrace the unique requirements so that all can come to the College to work, study and learn.



HEAR MORE ABOUT  
SCOTT'S EXPERIENCE  
AS A DEPLOYED  
EMPLOYEE VETERAN

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**YOUR COLLEGE,  
RIGHT AROUND  
THE CORNER**



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