

NEXT

the moraine park story

SPRING/SUMMER 2024, VOL. 7 ISSUE 1

FOCUSED ON
COMMUNITY
GROWTH



MORaine PARK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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The Stories Continue at:
morainepark.edu/today



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





BRIDGING THE GAP

FINDING A SOLUTION TO CHILDCARE SHORTAGES

When it comes to technical education, apprenticeships offer a unique and valuable pathway for students by combining practical, hands-on experience with formal classroom learning. Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) collaborates with local industries to provide more than 20 apprenticeship programs, creating meaningful opportunities for students to grow in their career fields.

In recent years, the College has been adding non-traditional apprenticeship opportunities as a collaborative effort with local industries in desperate need of skilled workers. One new MPTC apprenticeship opportunity aims to tackle shortages experienced in early childhood facilities through a unique partnership with QuadCare, a childcare center for the children of Quad employees and community members in Lomira and Sussex.

"Our Early Childhood Education (ECE) Apprenticeship with QuadCare follows Moraine Park's ECE program," Kim Spartz, experiential learning specialist at Moraine Park, said. "They will complete the online program in two years, and at the end of the program they will take the Transition to Trainer course, which will allow them to become mentors for future QuadCare apprentices. We are excited to see this partnership grow—fueling QuadCare's workforce and offering our district communities options for childcare for years to come."

Quad is a global marketing experience company headquartered out of Sussex, Wisconsin. They employ about 15,000 people in 14 countries worldwide, and eight of their 23 U.S. facilities are in Wisconsin. As a fully functional business-to-business solution, they primarily rely on creating and maintaining a robust workforce, and offering a benefit package that includes childcare is one way they ensure organizational success.

In the spring 2024 semester, Kylie Sampson began her Moraine Park apprenticeship at QuadCare. Sampson rotates through each classroom, allowing her to work with each age group and develop an understanding of the individualized classroom functions.

"I originally heard about the opportunity from my dad because he works at Quad, and he knew this is the career I wanted to pursue," Sampson said. "I am looking forward to learning how to build relationships with both the children and parents and applying what I learn directly into the classroom."

Sampson was hired at QuadCare in January. As part of being the sponsoring center, Quad enrolls their apprentices as full-time employees, meaning they are fully compensated, have access to full-time benefits, free childcare for their children and Quad pays for the entirety of their schooling.

"The job market is very competitive right now, and we aren't seeing many people enter or stay in Early Childhood education anymore," Nikki Sharp, director of QuadCare, said. "The fact that our apprentices can earn a full-time paycheck with benefits and still get that training alongside of it makes this apprenticeship a competitive career opportunity."



As a Moraine Park apprenticeship student, Sampson has full access to all student resources at the College, including counseling, disability resources, tutoring and student life—everything is available for her to be successful and maximize her college experience.

"This career field truly requires a passion and love for teaching and guiding children," Sharp said. "We have many long-term staff members who have established successful careers here, and we are excited and hopeful to welcome more childcare workers to QuadCare through Moraine Park's apprenticeship program."

Unlike standard degree programs, apprentices are recruited directly through a local business, giving the students and employer the opportunity to establish a working relationship from day one. As part of the education process, this also gives the employer a unique perspective of the student experience—helping to ensure success for their employee both in the classroom and in their career.

"The apprenticeship program is super flexible, and finding balance between working and taking our courses has been easy," Sampson said. "I am normally pretty shy, but working with children has really brought me out of my shell. So, I would tell anyone interested in the opportunity that you don't have to be super outgoing to find a meaningful career in this field."

A Partnership Focused
on Community Growth



"The apprenticeship program is super flexible, and finding balance between working and taking our courses has been easy."

- Kylie Sampson

Program
Early Childhood Education

Program Cluster
Apprenticeship

Time Requirement
2 years

Course Outcome
Certified State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship Completion and Journeyworker Card

Credit Requirement
24 credits or 432 hours of paid on-the-job instruction

Career Paths
Early Childhood Education Instructor

Median Salary in Wisconsin
\$31,197

For more program and degree information:



"It has been surreal to be working for a company like Elkay, especially since last year at this time I was going to homecoming."
- Adam Hoogervorst

Program
Graphic Design

Program Cluster
Arts, Audiovisual Technology and Communications

Degree Requirement
2-year associate

Credit Requirement
64 credits

Career Paths
Digital Prepress Technician, Graphic Artist, Graphic Designer, Digital Photo Technician

Median Salary in Wisconsin
\$40,000

For more information, visit morainepark.edu/graphic-design



MICRO-CREDENTIALS: UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY

In an era defined by advancing technology and evolving job markets, the power of micro-credentials has become a force in higher education. These bite-sized, targeted qualifications give students the opportunity to prove their skillsets and legitimize themselves in their career fields, all while working toward their degrees.

While traditional degrees require a more extensive commitment, micro-credentials are smaller, more specialized, online qualifications people can earn to showcase their skills in specific areas. In Moraine Park Technical College's Computer Literacy course, students develop basic computer skills and earn several micro-credential certifications, including the LinkedIn Learning Microsoft Word 365 Essentials, Microsoft Excel 365 Essentials and Microsoft PowerPoint 365 Essentials. These certifications provide evidence of students' proficiency from which they can further develop interests and skills.

"At Moraine Park, we see that employers value lifelong learning and agility," Stephanie Murre-Wolf, Business Technology and Software Applications instructor at Moraine Park, said. "In Computer Literacy and other application courses, students earn micro-credentials and learn to use various artificial intelligence (AI) tools to become more efficient and effective in their roles. Acquiring these credentials also builds up the students' resumes and makes them more desirable job candidates."

Adam Hoogervorst, a first-year student in MPTC's Graphic Design program, completed LinkedIn micro-credentials as part of his course work in Computer Literacy. Having never used LinkedIn before starting at Moraine Park, Hoogervorst was eager to build up his professional resume and highlight his proficiency.

Soon after building up his profile, he began qualifying for "EasyApply" applications for internships in his career field. One company was Elkay Interior Systems in Milwaukee, a global leader in commercial design and manufacturing services—a dream opportunity for a young graphic design student.

Within 30 minutes of applying, Elkay responded to Hoogervorst's application. After a few rounds of interviews, he was offered the internship and eagerly accepted—a testament to the powerful impact of micro-credentials in opening doors to professional opportunities.

"At my internship, I assisted the marketing team with designing graphics, creating presentations and more," Hoogervorst said. "In one of my projects, I designed a presentation for Elkay, overviewing their partnership with Starbucks. It has been surreal to be working for a company like Elkay, especially since last year I was going to homecoming."

Hoogervorst's internship with Elkay ended in late 2023, and he recently accepted a second internship with Secura Insurance in Neenah, where he will assist their marketing team with photography and videography needs. He hopes to use his associate degree from Moraine Park to open his own business.

"At Moraine Park, our goal is to prepare students to be upwardly mobile and ready to advance in their career as opportunities become available," Murre-Wolf said. "So, whether their role is analyzing data, summarizing email content, creating engaging presentations or writing interesting content, in Computer Literacy, students learn to use the tools available to perform their future jobs well. Adam's story serves as a great example of how these targeted qualifications can propel individuals toward their career aspirations, providing a bridge between education and real-world success."





FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE LABORATORIES

CAREER DEEP DIVE

Many students begin their educational journey without a clear picture of their end-goal or a full understanding of their career post-graduation.

This series will shed light on highlighted careers—giving a true behind-the-scenes look at the real aspects of the role, allowing students to be more informed and make a career choice that works best for them in the long-term.



The year was 2005 and Dwane Klostermann, a medical lab scientist (MLS) with a robust resume of on-the-job experiences, was beginning his first year as Moraine Park's Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) instructor. After serving in professional roles, he had a calling to share this less commonly known area of health care.

"The work of a laboratory technician is vital to overall patient care," Klostermann said. "In fact, nearly 80 percent of all health care decisions are impacted by the work done by the lab, and as an essential part of the health care system, I wanted to share this industry with students and our future health care workers."

Since then, Klostermann has developed the MLT program into a close-knit cohort, challenging their academic growth and truly preparing students to be expert laboratory professionals. He also serves as the president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) in Wisconsin. Through this role, he actively supports statewide and national laboratory efforts. Now, as the MLT Department Chair, Klostermann has played a significant role in creating an environment that fully prepares students for the transition to their career. In his tenure, he has helped hundreds of MLT students become successful health care professionals, and for the last 10 years the Moraine Park student pass rates for the MLT certification have been at 100 percent, well above the national average.

"It is such a joy to share this career field and guide individuals along their educational journey," Klostermann said.

"Looking back, watching my students graduate and become professionals in the field has been the most satisfying part of my job. I also serve part-time as a medical laboratory scientist, and I get the honor of working alongside some of my former students. Seeing them apply their skills and knowledge and demonstrate their dedication as thorough laboratory technicians is truly rewarding."

Klostermann serves in a part-time role as an MLS for Froedtert West Bend Hospital, as one way to remain on top of industry trends and any changes—there he works alongside Sierra Horan, a 2023 alum from Moraine Park's MLT program.





"Watching my students graduate, apply their skills and knowledge, and demonstrate their dedication as laboratory professionals has been the most satisfying part of my job."
- Dwane Klostermann

Program
Medical Laboratory Technician

Program Cluster
Health Sciences

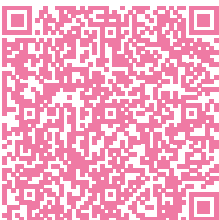
Degree Requirement
2-year associate

Credit Requirement
67 credits

Career Paths
Hospitals, Clinics, Doctor's Offices, State and Federal Labs, Private/Commercial Labs

Median Salary in Wisconsin
\$45,436

For more program and degree information:



THE JOURNEY TO BECOME A LABORATORY PROFESSIONAL

Many of the laboratory workers begin as phlebotomists and serve in the only patient-facing area of the lab.

At the College, the Phlebotomy course is now offered as a dual credit option for high school students—giving them the opportunity to enter the health care field and earn college credits that can be used toward an MPTC degree and beyond before they earn their K-12 diploma.

"All MLT students are required to take the phlebotomy course, making this role a natural first-step, and for some, this remains their lifelong career," Klostermann said. "I make sure all my students understand their growth options—phlebotomists can seamlessly continue to become an MLT, and after graduation at Moraine Park, students can transfer to one of our partner universities to become an MLS. The options are really robust and can be flexed to fit the timeline and needs of each student."

EARNING POTENTIAL

Beyond the feel-good impact of serving patients in many ways, laboratory professionals enjoy a career offering financial security.

PHLEBOTOMIST	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST
2 CREDIT COURSE	ASSOCIATE DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE
\$37,000*	\$57,671*	\$75,838*

Moraine Park's MLT program consists of 67 college credits and is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). Through a combination of hands-on coursework and a clinical site placement, medical lab technician students learn laboratory safety, practice collecting and processing biological specimens, monitor and evaluate quality control in the laboratory, correlate lab tests to a diagnosis of a condition or disease and more. An MLT is a licensed professional, and upon graduation, Moraine Park students are eligible to sit for the National Board of Certification Exam through the American Society for Clinical Pathology-Board of Certification (ASCP-BOC).

*According to salary.com

"I came to Moraine Park looking to begin a career in health care, but had no idea the MLT field existed," Horan said. "I met Dwane while taking the phlebotomy course and enjoyed the learning. It was ultimately Dwane who convinced me to try the MLT career."

Now, as colleagues, Horan enjoys having Klostermann as a reference for any questions and continues to serve as a mentor resource on-the-job—and for Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network, having the continued connectivity to Moraine Park is a win all around.

"We currently have five MPTC alumni on our laboratory team," Tim Block, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin laboratories Manager, said. "The industry as a whole needs more people, and our department is no different. So, when Dwane recommends a student to me, I know they will be an excellent success and hire them every time."

Block, an MLS like Klostermann, also enjoys sharing the field, and while his path led him to more of an administrative role, he shares his talent as a valued member of Moraine Park's MLT advisory committee. Each Moraine Park program is led by a committee comprised of industry professionals who help share the current needs and cultivate the curriculum to ensure graduates can easily transition from classroom to workplace.

"I really enjoy the collaboration with Moraine Park," Block said. "The information gathered from the committee is used to impact classroom learning. Sierra is a really fitting example of this co-created curriculum. Her level of professionalism exceeds expectations, and since joining our team, she has never required much oversight. The training she received fully prepared her for success in the lab."

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN MLT PROFESSIONAL

Horan was hired by Froedtert West Bend Hospital before her graduation from the program and began immediately after her certification. Like many MLT professionals, she enjoys having the ability to influence patient care without having direct patient contact—their work is completely behind the scenes.

The hidden hospital laboratory is far from glamorous—however, the barely-there noises, interesting smells and continuous flow of incoming orders gives the four walls a life of their own, and at Froedtert West Bend Hospital, it is clear the work of a laboratory professional is one of pride and responsibility.

"On any typical day, I receive specimens from different areas of the hospital, and it is my job to process them in an accurate and timely manner," Horan said. "There are multiple different testing options that might be required based on the specimen or order from the physician. Despite never having direct patient care, there is a sense of connectivity to some of the individuals who get frequent lab work. Like anyone else in the health care system, our testing follows their health care journey, and it is rewarding to know that the work we do allows physicians to provide a diagnoses and treatment plan."

At any given time, there are more than a dozen laboratory workers moving about the advanced equipment needed to process the orders, and each one has an impact on Moraine Park in their own way.

"Our staff plays a vital role in helping during clinical hours when Moraine Park students come to the lab," Block said. "Each employee has their own path, some pursued an MLS degree right away, while others became phlebotomists and worked their way to their destination."

LAATSCH'S PIGGLY WIGGLY

—AN ALUMNI STORY

In the friendly neighborhood of Kewaskum, fifth-generation grocery store owners Aaron and Amy Laatsch have kept the Piggly Wiggly an integral part of the community and surrounding area. For almost 150 years, the family has provided their local community with not just groceries but a sense of connection and continuity.

Aaron and Amy Laatsch, both Moraine Park alumni, took ownership of the store in February 2023 following the retirement of Aaron's cousin and former owner, Mike Geidel. Together, the pair have carried forward the store's legacy and have continued to blend tradition with modernity.

The story dates back to 1876 when Aaron Laatsch's great-great-grandfather opened a small corner store and saloon serving the basic needs of the locals. Over the years, each generation has added its own touch—expanding the store's offerings and adapting to the changing times.

"Some of my favorite memories are working at the store with my grandfather," Laatsch said. "He was in the business from the 1930s to the day before he passed away at age 81. Working with him, my aunt and uncle, cousins, brothers and now my own children has been an incredible part of my job, and I am proud to continue the store's legacy."

Aaron started stocking shelves at the store in 1990—he was 16 years old. He continued working there through high school, college and remained after he graduated from Moraine Park's Marketing program in West Bend in 1995. As the business grew, so did Aaron's career opportunities. He became store manager in 2000 and co-owner when he and his wife bought the business in 2023.

Amy Laatsch graduated from the College's Nursing program in 1999 and served as a nurse for more than 20 years before switching careers and working in the store full-time.

"I had a wonderful career as a nurse, but ultimately knew it was time to move on," Amy Laatsch said. "Buying the store and working there full-time has been amazing for our family, and the employees and customers we see reaffirm that decision every day."

Beyond the shelves and checkout counters, the Laatschs have kept the local Piggly Wiggly an important part of the Kewaskum community.

"We like to be involved in anything we can get our hands on," Aaron Laatsch said. "Whether it's a golf outing, charity run, movie in the parks—whatever is going on in town, we try to find a way to be a part of it. We've had such great support from our community, and we are happy to support our area non-profits in any way we can."



Aaron and Amy Laatsch understand that their role extends beyond commerce; it is about preserving a legacy and nourishing the community. As they continue to evolve and adapt, Laatsch's Piggly Wiggly stands as a testament to the power of family, community and the timeless neighborhood grocery store.

STAY CONNECTED:

Update your
Alumni information



EMPOWERING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

"AS EDUCATIONAL LEADERS, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAREER OPTIONS. AT MPTC, STUDENTS CAN EXPLORE CAREERS AND EARN COLLEGE CREDITS BEFORE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL"
—BONNIE BAERWALD

MORGAN SCHUELER'S EARLY ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Morgan Schueler always knew she wanted to go to college to pursue her marketing dreams, and when the opportunity arose to fast-track the process, she jumped at the chance.

While in high school, Schueler earned 39 dual enrollment credits through dual credit and Start College Now at no cost. She found herself halfway through the program and decided to personally invest in her education, covering the expenses for the remaining 32 credits required to complete the program. By the time she earned her diploma from Princeton High School, she had also earned her associate degree in Marketing from Moraine Park.

Schueler is one of the many high school students who have taken advantage of dual credit courses and the Start College Now program allowing eligible 11-12 grade students to enroll in Moraine Park courses.

"When the opportunity to not only earn college credit but ultimately get my associate degree this early in my academic career was right in front of me, I couldn't say no," Schueler said. "It wasn't easy, but everyone was super supportive and motivated me to keep going."

In spring 2023, she walked the stage at both Princeton High School and Moraine Park Technical College—a first in her high school's history.

"My time taking college level courses not only prepared me academically, but it also gave me the confidence to move across the country to pursue my bachelor's degree," Schueler said. "I am more motivated now than ever, and it feels good to keep taking steps forward."

Schueler is currently in her first year at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, studying marketing.





**"Students can earn
general education
college credits
(at Moraine Park
Technical College),
and they are
guaranteed to
transfer to any
University Transfer
partner school."
- Bonnie Baerwald**

Program
University Transfer-
Associate of Arts
Associate of Science

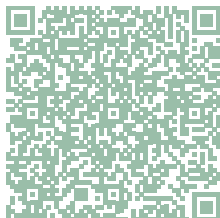
Program Cluster
General Studies

Degree Requirement
2 year associate

Credit Requirement
60+ credits

After Graduation
Seamlessly transfer
to a partner university
as a junior

For more program and
degree information:



MORAINE PARK AND ST. MARY'S SPRINGS COLLABORATE TO GROW STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Moraine Park is all about cultivating new partnerships. When the opportunity presented itself to collaborate with St. Mary's Springs Academy (SMSA) in Fond du Lac to offer hands-on, college-credit courses to high school students during an accelerated winter term, both educational institutions embraced it.

In 2022, MPTC and SMSA began having conversations around increasing dual credit opportunities for students, and enhancing the partnership between the two educational institutions has been a long-time goal for the College. The partnership is the first of its kind between a technical college and a parochial school.

"This collaborative effort has been a work-in-progress for a long time, and we are excited to see this finally come to fruition," Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park president, said. "One of our areas of strategic priority is enhancing our K12 partnerships, and when this opportunity presented itself, we made sure that our leaders had the resources needed."

Led by Beth Roehl, K12 manager, in partnership with SMSA High School Principal, Eamonn O'Keeffe, the SMSA J-Term was constructed with the benefit of the students in mind. The students attended MPTC from Jan. 3-16 and received college-level instruction from MPTC educators. Upon completion, they earn their class grade and receive college credits—transferrable within the state of Wisconsin.

"It has been such a joy to see our students explore new careers and programs at a college level," Stacey Akey, president of SMSA, said. "Our entire school has been buzzing with excitement—from the students, faculty and staff and the parents of our

Ledgers. It is clear this partnership has made a significant impact on our participating students and has opened doors to career exploration and future opportunities with MPTC."

To prepare for the partnership, SMSA surveyed students to gauge course interest, and the results were used to create five different course offerings. The 2024 J-Term MPTC courses offered were Nursing Assistant, Manufacturing Processes, CAD 3D SolidWorks, Welding and Automotive Fundamentals. In total, 44 SMSA students traveled to campus for nearly two weeks of learning.

"I really liked that it had a hands-on element and that it's unlike anything else we've done," an SMSA senior who took advantage of the automotive fundamentals course in preparation for his educational pathway in mechanical engineering, said.

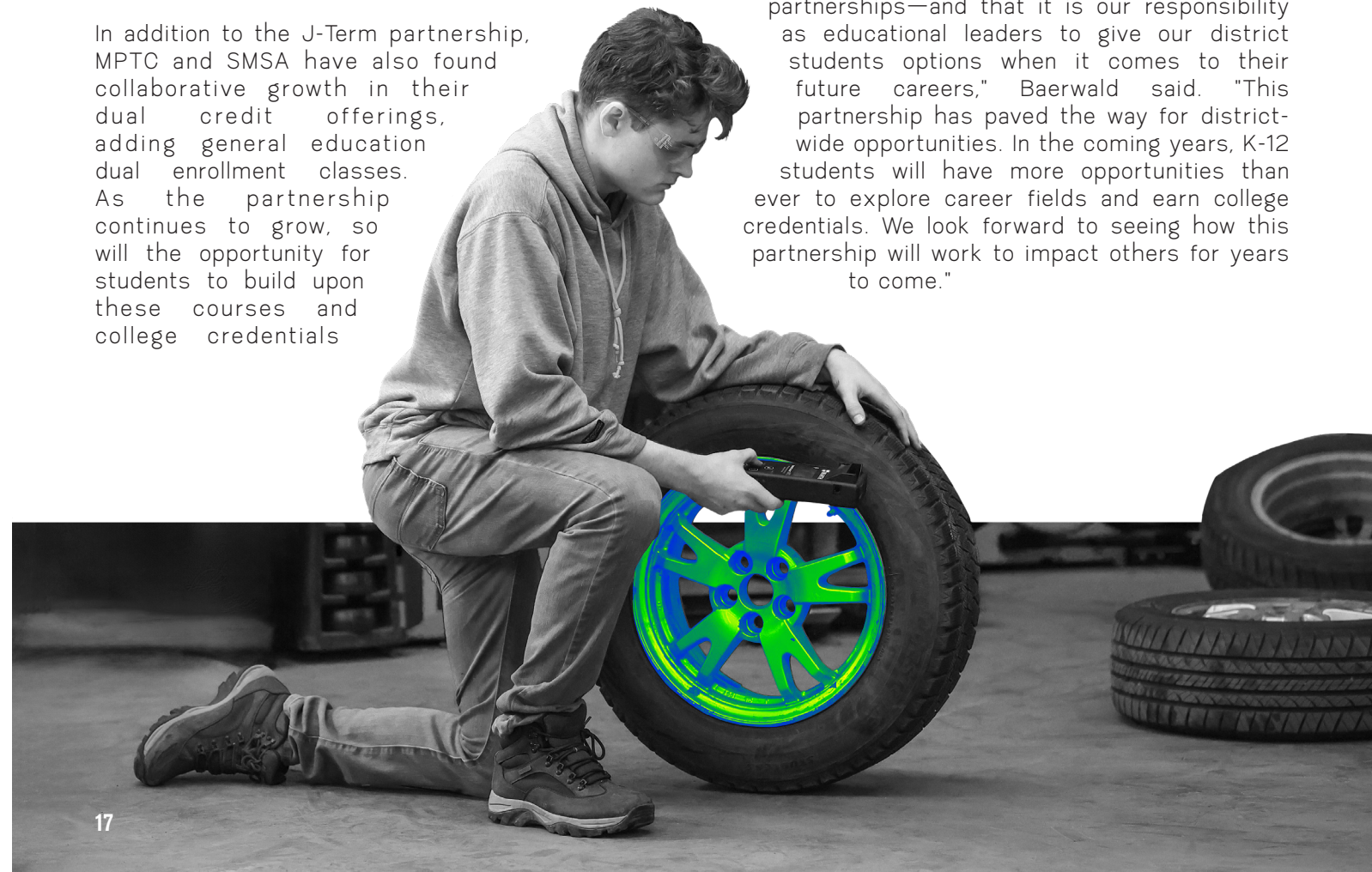
In addition to the J-Term partnership, MPTC and SMSA have also found collaborative growth in their dual credit offerings, adding general education dual enrollment classes. As the partnership continues to grow, so will the opportunity for students to build upon these courses and college credentials

each year, which can be used toward a degree at Moraine Park or transferred to a four-year university.

"Through this growing partnership, SMSA students also have access to general education dual credit courses throughout the year," Baerwald said. "Moraine Park is part of a robust University Transfer agreement with three of the Universities of Wisconsin locations, and more are in the pipeline. This means students can earn general education college credits, and they are guaranteed to transfer to any University Transfer partner school."

Moving forward, the two educational institutions are working to create an annual J-Term plan and year-round opportunities for students to learn from Moraine Park educators in state-of-the-art learning labs.

"Our hope through this partnership is that our communities can see the true value in strong partnerships—and that it is our responsibility as educational leaders to give our district students options when it comes to their future careers," Baerwald said. "This partnership has paved the way for district-wide opportunities. In the coming years, K-12 students will have more opportunities than ever to explore career fields and earn college credentials. We look forward to seeing how this partnership will work to impact others for years to come."



IMAGINE WHAT'S NEXT TOGETHER

MPTC CAPITAL PROJECT PLAN UPDATE



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND TRADES

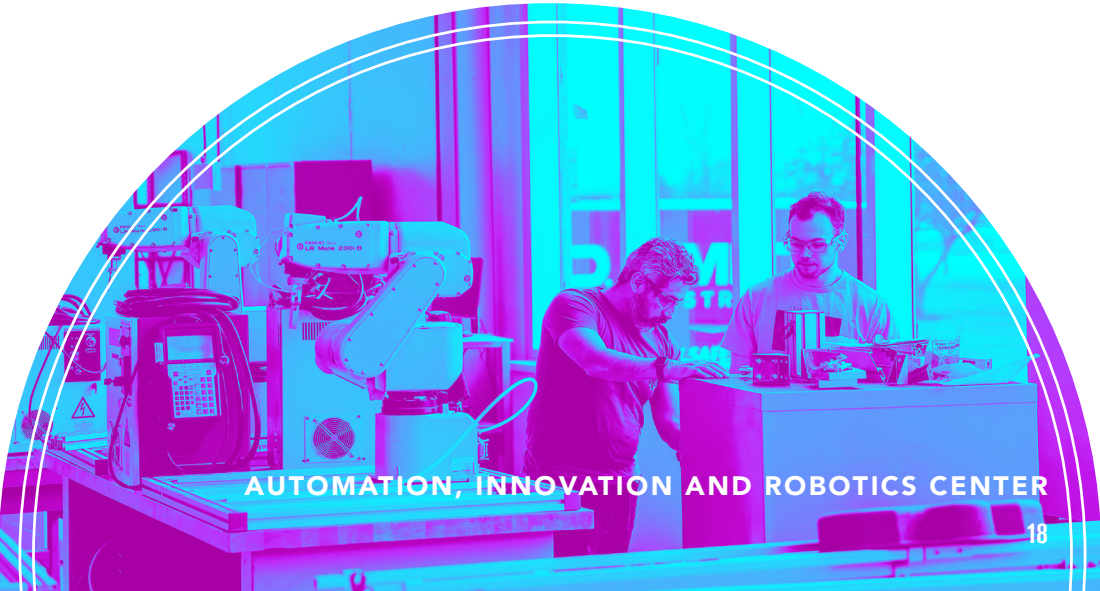
FOND DU LAC, WI

In January 2024, the College officially welcomed the first class of students into the Automation, Innovation and Robotics (AIR) Center. Funded primarily by donor dollars, the space allows for collaboration across multiple programs and fuels the current industry needs in our district.

Moraine Park celebrated the generosity of the AIR Center donors in a small ceremony to show off the new space and introduce some of the students directly impacted by their gifts.

Phase 2 of the Advanced Manufacturing and Trades project, a remodel to the College's B-wing, began in early 2024 and is expected to be completed in June.

A community-wide celebration and viewing of the new space is being planned for summer 2024.



MANUFACTURING, AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS LAB

WEST BEND, WI

The Manufacturing, Automation and Robotics Lab project in West Bend will transform the manufacturing spaces on campus, as well as the campus as a whole—creating a new front entrance and conference center space.

Phase one is underway and will add a Manufacturing, Automation and Robotics Lab to support advanced manufacturing, welding, metal fabrication and robotics for apprenticeship degree programs and job training.

The expected completion date is December 2024.

Phase two of the West Bend Campus expansion will begin in spring 2025.



HORICON REGIONAL CENTER

HORICON, WI

The Horicon Regional Center, located at 1210 Wrucke Street, is scheduled for completion this summer and will welcome its first students this fall.

The 28-acre lot will house the 17,937-square-foot building for lab and instructional space and a 3,500-square-foot fire training tower. The new facility will allow live fire conditions, prop burning and controlled fire situations at a lower-risk training experience.



MORaine PARK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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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 7, Issue 1.

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- In-person support services and campus life.
- Your place to belong, grow and learn.
- Transfer to a four-year university as a junior.

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TRANSFER
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GRADUATE
with a Bachelor's Degree

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