2009 ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Program

Entry Form

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
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The signed entry form and supporting documentation must be electronically submitted to the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Program. For further information, please visit our Web site at: http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlawards/excellenceguidelines.cfm. Faxed entries will not be accepted.

Please type or print the following:

Name of Nominated Library Moraine Valley Community College

Name of Institution Moraine Valley Community College

Name of Library Director/Dean Dr. Sylvia Jenkins

Address 9000 W. College Parkway

City Palos Hills   State IL   Zip Code 60465

Phone (708) 974-5294   Fax (708) 974-1184   E-mail jenkins@morainevalley.edu

Institution's Mission **The mission of our college is to educate the whole person in a learning-centered environment, recognizing our responsibilities to one another, to our community, and to the world we share.** We value excellence in teaching, learning and service as we maintain sensitivity to our role in a global, multicultural community. We are committed to continuous improvement and dedicated to providing accessible, affordable, and diverse learning opportunities and environments.

Type of Library *(Please Check One):*

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University
☐ Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive
☐ Doctoral/Research Universities-Intensive
☐ Master's Colleges and Universities I
☐ Master's Colleges and Universities II

College
☐ Baccalaureate Colleges-Liberal Arts
☐ Baccalaureate Colleges-General
☐ Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges

Community College
☒ Associate's Colleges

Submitted by (Full Name/Title): Leslie A. Warren, Information Literacy Librarian

Name of Institution Moraine Valley Community College

Name of Library Moraine Valley Community College Library

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Dec. 3, 2008

Signature of Library Director/Dean of Nominated Institution   Date

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ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
Moraine Valley Community College Nomination

Submitted December 3, 2008

Created from student responses to the spring 2008 survey question "What do you like best about the library at Moraine Valley?"

Background

The Moraine Valley Community College Library is very proud of its work supporting the mission of the second largest community college in Illinois. We are honored to nominate ourselves for the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Our vision statement makes clear our intent to be leaders on campus and in our community. "As an integral part of Moraine Valley Community College, we will be a leading-edge library that empowers our learning community by providing quality resources, responsive services, and effective information literacy education."

The entire library staff is dedicated to ensuring that we serve the needs of our community. We are respected by the administration, the faculty, and, perhaps most importantly, our students. According to the college's spring 2007 Transfer Graduate Survey, library services had both the highest ratings and highest usage of college services included. According to the survey, 87% of student respondents used library services at Moraine Valley. The rating was a 3.5 (between good and excellent), the highest rating given to any service.

The Moraine Valley Community College Mission

The mission of our college is to educate the whole person in a learning centered environment, recognizing our responsibilities to one another, to our community, and to the world we share. We value excellence in teaching, learning, and service as we maintain sensitivity to our role in a global, multicultural community. We are committed to continuous improvement and dedicated to providing accessible, affordable, and diverse learning opportunities and environments.

The MVCC Library Mission

The Moraine Valley Community College Library supports the mission and purpose of the college by providing instruction and information resources necessary to support the curriculum in a learning centered environment. As a teaching library, we are committed to actively preparing students for a lifetime of learning. We are dedicated to providing an accessible, multicultural, professional atmosphere for learning in an information and technology based society. We recognize our responsibilities to one another, to our community, and to the world we share.

Moraine Valley Community College is a fast-growing college in Chicago's southwest suburbs, serving 26 communities. The fall 2008 enrollment is 18,736 students, setting a new college record. Students enrolled in college transfer courses make up 57.6 percent of the enrollment while career program students account for 33.4 percent. Fifty-eight percent of the students are enrolled part-time.

Not surprisingly, the library is seeing a significant increase in use. The library traffic count has increased from 304,084 in 2003-04 to 506,028 in 2007-08. This rapid growth encourages the entire library staff to work together. Our increased number of students means that we are serving more needs, being asked to do more for more people, and facing challenges related to managing student behavior. Based on a library survey of students in spring 2006 and simultaneous conversations with library employees, for example, we decided to develop a new code of library conduct. Everyone in the library contributed to the document, which outlines behavior that students can expect of employees and behavior that employees expect of students.

The library is within the college's Academic Development and Learning Resources subdivision, along with the Center for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, the subdivision's dean, has been a librarian at Moraine Valley for more than 20 years. Our department was very proud when Sylvia was honored with the college's prestigious *Dr. Vernon O. Crawley Leadership Award* in 2007.

In addition to the dean, the library has 26 full- and part-time employees. Our five full-time librarians and our Library Access Services Specialist are tenure-track faculty. We have 15 adjunct librarians, nine staff members in Access Services, including two monitors who help

instruct students on appropriate behavior in a busy library, and five staff members in Technical Services. We consciously strive to build a supportive, friendly environment in which partnerships can grow. Social activities during the workday, for example, help us get to know each other so that we work well as a team.

To ensure that the library's activities are supportive of the college's needs, we view the Library's activities within the framework of the Moraine Valley Community College Strategic Priorities, as defined in the college's 2007-2012 Strategic Plan.

As explained on the college's website, "The major purpose of both strategic and annual planning at Moraine Valley is to prepare for future challenges and to promote positive change. In planning, we try to find a good match between external demands and opportunities, the internal values of the college, and the college's resources (people and dollars). The successful performance of an institution is directly related to effective planning and good decision making."

The Moraine Valley Community College strategic priorities are:
A. Emphasize and promote student success
B. Enhance community awareness, connections and partnerships
C. Embrace diversity
D. Plan, achieve and manage growth
E. Build organizational capability through continuous improvement

A. Emphasize & promote student success

Teaching and learning are at the core of the college's and the library's missions. We see that in obvious places, such as our information literacy, instruction and reference services. We also see that in our technical services department, the services provided by our circulation staff, and our online resources. Our work with others, both within and beyond the campus, is done to emphasize student success. We intentionally take on responsibilities in order to better serve our students and improve our learning centered environment. The entire library staff is so committed to our students that we created a scholarship for library student workers.

College 101: Building a Foundation: The librarians work closely with the college's Student Development staff to be a part of College: Changes, Challenges, Choices (College 101), a college success course required of all first-time, full-time students. Librarians teach one contact hour of the 1-credit class, introducing about 3000 students each year to our library and college-level research. Many librarians use scenario activities based on instructional objectives to make the work relevant to the students and to serve as on the spot assessments. Information Literacy Librarian Leslie Warren is a member of the College 101 steering committee. Leslie, who regularly teaches her own section of College 101, is also developing the first completely online version of the class, to be included on the college's schedule beginning in fall 2009.

Information Literacy Expectations: The library
and the Communications/Literature (Com/Lit)
faculty collaborated on a multi-year project to
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Haley's *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Their works formed the core content for a 2-D virtual map using Google Maps. This work was then moved to a 3-D virtual exhibit in Second Life. This project revealed the challenges of moving between virtual platforms while still connecting form and content in meaningful ways.

Distance Education: Online learning at Moraine Valley has increased 37 percent in the last five years. The library is committed to serving online students as well as the traditional, face-to-face students. Librarians sometimes embed into online courses to provide discussion

supporting the library's podcasts were recognized in the 2007 *Library Technology Reports* (September/October) as a best practice in social software in libraries.

Student Scholarship Funded by Pumpkins: The library staff's commitment to student success goes beyond providing library resources and services that support the curriculum. In 2002 the library created a Library Student Scholarship for library student workers. The scholarship is funded by an annual pumpkin decorating contest that is organized and hosted by librarians and support staff in the library. We sell decorated pumpkins donated by individuals and groups from across campus. We also sell votes for the favorite pumpkin. The library has awarded four $500 scholarships thus far. In 2005 the contest's $511 dollars was donated to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. The contest is a fun-raiser as well as a fundraiser, creating an informal dialogue across campus departments and between staff, faculty and students.

B. Enhance community awareness, connections & partnerships

and Illinois Central College to ensure that the information literacy discussion is statewide. The

community. Nineteen Moraine Valley faculty and staff who published a work or showed a piece of art were recognized in 2008.

Campus Committees

Troy Swanson, "Integrating Second Life & Google Maps: Malcolm X Across Platforms." Computers in Libraries 2008, Arlington, Virginia (April 9, 2008)

Recent articles include:

Troy Swanson. "Google Maps & Second Life: Virtual Platforms Meet Information Literacy." College & Research Libraries News. 69:10 (2008)

Leslie Warren. "Information Literacy in Community Colleges: Focused On Learning." Reference & User Services Quarterly, 45:4 (2006) 297-303.

C. Embrace diversity

The Moraine Valley Library, like the college as a whole, is committed to supporting everyone in the college community. Given that the college serves 26 communities, totaling nearly 400,000 people in Chicago's southwest suburbs, it is no surprise that the student body represents a wide variety of ages, races, religions, and abilities.

Improving Services for Students with Disabilities: In 2008-09 the library is collaborating with the college's Center for Disability Services to review current policies, facilities, equipment and services in order to identify any barriers to access for students with disabilities or changes that could be made to improve library services for students with disabilities. Preliminary improvements began in May 2008 when the Center for Disability Services sponsored computer training for the library and others. The training addressed accessibility software that supports students with visual impairments and reading disabilities.

CARLI Collections Enhancement Awards Program: The Moraine Valley Library took advantage of opportunities available through the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) to improve its support of students with special needs. The CARLI Collections Enhancement Awards Program encourages sharing of collection resources for institutions of higher education in the state of Illinois. Joe Mullarkey, Collection Management Librarian, petitioned for state funds for collection enhancement in a collaborative proposal with eight other institutions of higher education. In 2007-08 Moraine Valley received $2000 for the purchase of materials on "Special Education in Higher Education."

2007-08 "One Book, One College" Program Emphasized Race and Religion: In 2007-08 the library planned several events focusing on Alex Haley's *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as part of the "One Book, One College" program. A "One Book" website linked to educational resources, faculty resources, and information about the various events being held. The library hosted nine events covering such topics as Malcolm X, Islam, the 1960s, the Civil Rights movement, and race. Over 450 people attended these events.

Campus-wide Diversity Training: Librarian Joe Mullarkey serves as a diversity workshop facilitator for the college. Moraine Valley Community College hired The Kaleidoscope Group, L.L.C. of Chicago in 2008 to consult on enhancing the college's core value of "Diversity" on campus. One outcome of that consultation was the decision to train faculty and staff as facilitators for a 3 1/2 hour "Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Workshop." Participation in this workshop is required of all newly hired staff, faculty and administrators on campus.

D. Plan, achieve & manage growth

Moraine Valley Community College has been seeing steady growth in its student population. Over the last five years, total headcounts have increased by more than 6 percent and total credit hours have increased by 7 percent. The fall 2008 enrollment, a college record, is 18,736 students. To accommodate this increase, Moraine Valley successfully sought a $89 million bond referendum, which is funding several new buildings on campus.

Similarly, library usage is up. Our traffic count in 2003-04 was 304,084. In 2007-08, the traffic count was up to 506,028. The increase in students in the library and the increased number of classes on campus mean that the library must strategically consider how to allocate resources and how to meet the needs of our students. To be efficient, we must work together. We have also needed to request additional funding and staffing. Although we have not gotten everything we asked for, the college did approve funds to remodel the library, a distance education librarian, and an additional library assistant.

Library Remodeling: The library is very proud of the support that it has on campus.   In 2004-2005, the college invested $1.1 million to renovate the library so that the library would be better prepared to serve our growing number of students and their changing needs. These renovations included two new instructional classrooms, incorporating state of the art instructional technology; an expanded lounge area, including a coffee bar (*right*) and event space; three new group study rooms; and new library staff work areas. Funding came through college savings and the Illinois Community College Board. To ensure that the college's community continued to have library services during the remodeling, full library services were provided during each of the project's three phases. Throughout the design and renovation process, Dean Sylvia Jenkins, Department Chair Maria D'Aversa, Library Access Services Specialist/remodeling project manager Barbara Rys, and librarian Nancy Hessler worked closely with the architects to ensure that the project would meet the needs of the students as well as the faculty and staff.

Balancing Students' Needs in a Busy Library: A year after the remodeling project ended, the library asked students to tell us how well the remodeled facility served their needs. We were hearing anecdotal evidence from students that the library was sometimes too busy and too

outlines behaviors that students can expect of library staff and that library staff can expect of students. Having clear expectations both ways promotes a learning-centered atmosphere.

<u>Growth in Distance Education</u>: The Distance Education Librarian, Lee Semmerling, was hired

administration, staff, board of trustees, college district community, and the library "community." Although full-time library faculty members lead the assessment activities, all library staff members are expected to be involved at some level.

<u>Involving the Entire Library Staff</u>: In spring 2006 the library surveyed more than 400 students in the library and in classes outside the library to determine whether the library's space and environment served their needs appropriately. The process used to respond to that the data from the survey serves as a model for involving the entire library staff in the improvement process.

I am pleased that our librarians and our other faculty have such a good working relationship that they often collaborate on a variety of campus pr

In closing, the MVCC library faculty and staff em

Kristine R. Van Baren
Instructor of History
Department of Social Science

December 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The faculty and staff of the Moraine Valley Community College Library are truly exceptional. I have had the opportunity to work closely with many of the librarians since joining the college in the fall of 2000.

Although initially I merely introduced my students to the library using a more general workshop session geared toward introducing available research tools, it was through the Library's liaison program that my entire approach toward incorporating information literacy in my course content changed. I now work together with the liaison to my department in a true partnership as we create experiential learning activities which have significantly raised the level of academic scholarship in research projects and decreased the incidences of plagiarism. Additionally these activities create a personal connection between my students and one of the librarians. Because of this connection I have witnessed an increased number of students turning to MVCC librarians for assistance when completing research projects for my classes.

Personally, the librarians of MVCC are some of the nicest, most cooperative and most helpful people you could hope to meet. They are enthusiastic about what they do and inspirational to their fellow faculty members. They genuinely care about the success, both at MVCC and in the future, of our students. I know from experience that many of the students in my classes continue to contact the librarian who worked with that particular class long after the semester ends and sometimes even after they have transferred to a four-year institution. It is that personal, caring approach that can make such a difference in a student's life.

In summary, I recommend the Moraine Valley Community College Library to you without reservation for the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristine R. Van Baren

December 1, 2008

Dear ACRL Colleagues:

I write in support of Moraine Valley Community College for the 2009 ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award.

Although Illinois is blessed to have many fine academic libraries, a few stand apart from the rest, and the library at Moraine Valley Community College is at the very top. The Library's commitment to collaboration---within the college, with district high schools and in the broader community are a model for today's academic libraries.

Professional development, with the active encouragement and support of the Library's Dean, is likewise outstanding and serves as a model in Illinois and well beyond.
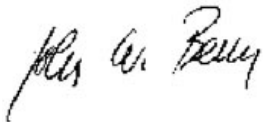
Of particular note is the Moraine Valley Community College Library's leadership in the Information Literacy movement statewide. The Library began a highly successful and well-attended annual Information Literacy Summit several years ago. Offered at three locations at community colleges in northern, central and southern Illinois, a keynote speaker leads off and breakout sessions by practitioners round out the day's events.

In 2003, the NILRC consortium received a three-year IMLS National Leadership grant that addressed the information literacy needs of "at risk" high school and community college students. One of five community college libraries paired with a local high school, the Moraine Valley library staff contributed hundreds of in-kind hours to develop an assessment instrument now in wide use in Illinois and across the nation.

The Library also played a key role in developing the grant's Toolkit for Success designed to help teachers/faculty and librarians work together to address the information literacy needs of their at-risk high school and community college students.

In short, the Moraine Valley Community College Library exemplifies excellence and leadership in every area of librarianship making the Library a fine candidate for the ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award.

John W. Berry

Executive Director
   and
Past President, American Library Association