

MORaine PARK NAMED FIRST FAIR TRADE TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN U.S.

Moraine Park Technical College has become the first technical college in the U.S. to achieve Fair Trade status. The designation was granted by Fair Trade Colleges & Universities USA this past summer.

Fair Trade is a global trade model that promotes the purchase and sale of goods produced ethically and fairly. It ensures fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmental sustainability while prohibiting forced labor. Fair Trade products such as coffee, tea, chocolate and greeting cards are available at all three Moraine Park cafeterias and bookstores.



A worker collects organic cocoa beans on a wooden platform where the beans are left to dry.

“The College’s mission is to prepare students for success in a diverse and globally connected world,” said Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park president. “Our interest and designation as a Fair Trade school demonstrates our commitment to exposing and teaching our students about social and ethnic values and struggles.”

Brenda Schaefer, social science instructor/service learning coordinator at Moraine Park said it was her students’ effort that helped the College receive this designation. “My ethics course took this on as a service-learning project as we learned about the value of Fair Trade and the inequalities and ethical implications of cheap labor and the effects of globalization in our society,” said Schaefer. During the processes, students worked with College vendors and food service providers and drafted a resolution for implementation. “The students learned how to work with vendors and learned about the processes involved at Moraine Park so the resolution could be accepted. It was a great experience and a great effort for everyone who was involved.”

Learn more about Moraine Park’s Fair Trade designation by visiting [Moraine Park’s Fair Trade Campaign page](#).