

MVCC Bios with Pictures PEAKS 2015-16

Dennis Gibbons



Hello, my name is Dennis Gibbons, Associate Dean for Student & Residence Life Services at Mohawk Valley Community College. I am the Student Affairs Team Leader for the Student & Residence Life Services Team comprised of Residence Life, Health Center, Civic Responsibilities and Student Engagement - but most of my time is associated with Residence Life. I have worked at the college for over 23 years and have had several different titles along the way. Like many people in Student Affairs, I sort of "fell into this field" but have enjoyed it every day. Being able to witness the power of a Community College and see firsthand how it can help to transform lives has been a tremendous privilege.

I was born in Waterville, N.Y., a little south of Utica, and continue to live in there today. I look forward to meeting all of you and going through the PEAKS program!

Kat Linaker



Hi! I am Kathleen (Kat) Linaker, Dean of the Center for Life and Health Sciences. While I am new to Mohawk Valley Community College, I have been involved in higher education for over 15 years. I was born and raised on a farm in Alberta, Canada and I am the first person in my family to attend college. I was attracted to MV because of their vision statement: "transforming lives through learning".

My background is in the health field. I am a licensed chiropractor and board certified chiropractic radiologist. I have been married to my husband Clint for 16 years and we have a 9 year old daughter, Katie. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and taking part in the PEAKS program.

Shane McGovern



My name is Shane McGovern. I am the Director of Dual Credit Programs for MVCC. I was born and raised here in the Mohawk Valley. I attended high school and college locally. After completing my Bachelor's degree I relocated to San Diego, CA for five years followed by Charlotte, NC for three years. During that time I worked in software and telecommunication sales and marketing for a variety of private companies. I am a family oriented person and in 2005 decided I had been away from my loved ones for too long. I moved back to the area in the summer of 2005 and obtained my first position with MVCC in October of that year. In the spring of 2006 I was given the opportunity to work with MVCC's Dual Credit Program as a term appointment. After a semester of managing the program, the college offered me the position on a permanent basis. I have now been with the college nearly ten years working with our area high schools and watching our partnerships grow.

In my free time, I enjoy many activities including hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, hanging out with family, playing with my dog and doing DIY projects at home. I am married to my wonderful wife Stacy, who keeps me in check so my crazy DIY project ideas don't get out of hand. When we were married, I adopted my son, Michael, who now attends MVCC and has found a passion for computer science and cybersecurity. I also have six nieces and nephews that I visit as much as I can. I fit best in the company of young people, and the young at heart. They inspire me to look at the world around us from new and creative perspectives.

Jill Heintz



Hi all, I am Jill Heintz and am the Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees at Mohawk Valley Community College. I began at the College in May of 2011 after sixteen years as Director of Admissions at Pratt MWP, the upstate New York campus of Pratt Institute. I serve on the President's Cabinet which allows me to participate in many college initiatives and I lead many different projects on behalf of the College. One of my most active roles this past year has been serving as a Tri-chair for Achieving the Dream, a national student success reform initiative. In addition to my work responsibilities, I am pursuing my Master's degree in higher education administration.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Ben who I've been married to for the past ten years. I have two (young adult) step-children, Sophie and Nick, and three dogs, Blue, Lucy and Fields. My husband and I live in Sherrill and have a second (historic) home in Turin, N.Y. We love both homes and working (Ben more than me!) on the

various projects and grounds! We appreciate any vacation we get whether it be home or away. I like to golf, even though I'm not great, and I especially enjoy my regular kettlebell exercise class.

I'm looking forward to the next year in the PEAKS program and meeting new friends and developing relationships with my colleagues.

Jim Maio



Hello, my name is Jim Maio. I've been part of Mohawk Valley Community College for the past twelve years. I began my career at MVCC as a Counselor, but I've had a few different roles along the way. My current role is the Associate Dean for Student Development and Transition Services. What I enjoy most about working at MVCC is that I often have the opportunity to take on new challenges that align with the type of work that I most enjoy.

I've been married to my wife Kim for 16 years and we have a 12 year old daughter, Gianna. We are a "dog family" and we have two Border Collies, Shadow and Oakley. I enjoy playing golf during the summer months and I introduced my daughter to the game about 4 years ago. As she has improved I have found my place as a spectator and cheerleader much more rewarding.

Mary Jane Parry



My name is Mary Jane Parry and I feel like I am the luckiest person in the world because I am a member of the Mohawk Valley Community College Information Technology team.

As a member of this team, I have the fortune of spending my weekdays with some of the most intelligent and genuine people I could ever know in what is a truly collaborative environment.

My nights and weekends are pretty terrific as well. They are filled with family, friends, three not so small dogs, volunteering, reading leadership books and blogs, road trips, and continuous learning.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and sharing the PEAKS Leadership experience with my fellow team members.

Julie Dewan



Hi! I'm Julie Dewan, Assistant Dean of the Center for Language and Learning Design and Professor of Mathematics. I was born and raised in the Mohawk Valley. I received my associates, bachelors and master's degrees from New York State Colleges. I have worked at MVCC for 16 years, after short stints teaching high school mathematics and working for insurance companies. For the first ten years, I taught a range of mathematics courses and served as the Coordinator of Developmental Mathematics. When the College was reorganized from 12 departments to 5 centers, I eagerly accepted an Assistant Dean position. I enjoy the opportunities this position creates for me.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. My daughter Shelby is the light of my life. She's an extremely active, inquisitive and adorable 5 year-old. She loves helping me with yardwork and projects around the house. I like to travel, read, complete jigsaw puzzles, and listen to music—Shelby does too.

Dan Ianno



Hi, my name is Dan Ianno and I am the Director of Admissions at Mohawk Valley Community College. I started at the college in 1998 as an Admissions Counselor and have held several titles throughout my time at the college, all in Admissions. After three and a half years at MVCC I left to pursue an opportunity outside of academia, but soon realized that I enjoyed working in the college setting and specifically in Admissions. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to return to the college after being away for just over a year and have been here ever since. I was also the assistant men's soccer coach at MVCC from 1999-2013.

Not only am I a first generation college student but I am also a first generation Italian-American and appreciate all that my parents have done. I was born and raised in the Mohawk Valley, graduating from New Hartford High School before attending MVCC for one year then transferred to and graduated from SUNY Oswego. I currently live in South Utica with my wife Marye and daughter Emmelyn. Of course I will watch and play soccer whenever I can but am also a die-hard fan of the New York Yankees, Dallas Cowboys, New York Rangers and Syracuse football and basketball.

David Katz



Hi all, I'm David R. Katz III, Professor of Political Science and currently the Executive Director of Organizational Development at Mohawk Valley Community College. I was in college classrooms for 32 years teaching just about every conceivable higher education cohort there is, from adult learners to traditional college students, athletes in intercollegiate competition, and inmates within New York State correctional facilities. I have coached basketball on the varsity high school, NJCAA Div. III, and NCAA Div. III levels, and I've also taught Social/Ballroom dancing professionally. I spent college summers as a life guard and Red Cross Swimming Instructor. Teaching, coaching and mentoring is my lifework.

Outside of work I am an endurance athlete who enjoys running, biking, cross country skiing, hiking, mountaineering and fly fishing for trout in pristine back country mountain streams. I love spending time with my wife Marilyn, my two dogs, and my three grown children when they come for a visit! I am truly psyched about this whole PEAKS experience and getting to know everyone!