Marshall, Mo. (March 5, 2013) — Two Missouri Valley College students received regional honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Five theatre majors from MVC traveled to Shreveport, La., to participate in the Festival.

Entrees for the contest came from work the students had done in the theatre department’s presentation of Heads, a play written by E.M. Lewis. Heads premiered at MVC in October 2012 in the Morris Experimental Theatre. The action of the play takes place in Iraq where four individuals are taken hostage. Each person must decide what he or she will do to survive as death draws close. While unpublished, the play has been produced in New York, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles where it was named Best of LA Times Top Ten.

MVC Student Catherine Combs received the Don Childs Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas award for her lighting design of Heads. The award comes with a tuition grant and expenses for one week at the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas this summer.

MVC Student Crystal Mann was recognized as a finalist in the regional Musical Theatre Initiative auditions.

MVC Student Andrew Waller auditioned for the Irene Ryan Scholarship. Waller and MVC Student Samantha Hill also had the opportunity to present a scene from Heads which was invited to the festival as part of the Showcase of Invited Scenes.

As part of the Festival, MVC Professor Harold Hynick facilitated an improvisation workshop. MVC Student Sulma Caballero helped Hynick with the workshop. The students also participated in a variety of workshops, readings, showcases and performances.

A bonus to the trip was the presence of playwright E.M. Lewis at the festival. Lewis met with the Valley students to discuss their production of Heads, and to share the fate of the characters in two new plays in the trilogy she is developing.

Region VI is composed of schools from Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Student work is measured equally regardless of the size of the institution or graduate/undergraduate status.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE
Known for its dynamic, richly diverse, and friendly educational environment, Missouri Valley College offers many opportunities to grow in mind, body, and spirit. Grounded in the liberal arts, undergraduate studies empower students to master interdisciplinary skills needed to succeed in a knowledge-based global society. MVC offers over 40 academic programs, study abroad program, honors program, extracurricular activities, and 13 sports. The most popular majors include education and business, and some new majors are agribusiness, nursing, graphic design and health information systems (associate degree). Above all, Valley is committed to student success. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.