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Triton College

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Triton College's Alumni Association Selects Principal Michael McGrone, Sr. as Alumni Wall of Fame Inductee



Michael McGrone, Sr.

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – The Triton College Alumni Association has selected high school principal Michael McGrone, Sr. as one of six Alumni Wall of Fame inductees. This honor is bestowed on individuals who have made a significant impact in their profession, community and beyond.

For McGrone, Triton College was more than just a place to receive an education. It saved his life. When he first arrived at the college as a teenage student, McGrone was homeless.

Traveling from Gary, Indiana, “my uncle dropped me off (at Triton’s) athletic building parking lot,” said McGrone. “I told Coach Mitz that I didn’t have a place to live.”

Former football coach Gene Mitz helped McGrone find housing and, with support from some of the college’s instructors, encouraged McGrone to pursue his academic goals.

“The teachers at Triton changed my life and instilled so much in me,” he said. “They said that it was possible (for me) to become the person that I am today.”

Following Triton, McGrone pursued a career in education and has been in the field for nearly 30 years. Today McGrone is principal at an alternative high school in Chicago.

During his career, McGrone became the first African-American assistant principal at Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond, Indiana.

He also established various programs for young men, including Men of Distinction, Ace Tech Ambassador and Men of Valor.

His teaching accolades include The Dr. Joseph P. Ramsey Award and he was nominated for Teacher of the Year in Illinois by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

McGrone gained national recognition when he was featured on the Rachael Ray Show in August 2016 for his efforts at Rich Township High School in Richton Park, Illinois.

McGrone is the author of *The Twists and Turns of Possibility: My Life is My True Story*. The book reflects how McGrone turned his tragedy into triumph and proudly references Triton College.

McGrone said his life has come “full circle” by becoming an Alumni Wall of Fame inductee. He expressed “gratitude” and said that his determination helped him receive this honor.

“Those built for greatness get their strength through their trials and tribulations,” he explained. “Embrace your problems. Going into the future, I want Triton College to thrive.”

Here’s a short video featuring Michael McGrone, Sr.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwK4b9W9n-U>

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ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE

Triton College is an institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs designed for students to realize their career aspirations and effectively compete in a global economy. The college campus spans 110 acres in River Grove, Illinois, holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton’s exemplary faculty and staff work to provide high-quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 10,000 students each year. Triton College is a member

of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://triton.edu/>.