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For immediate release: **April 4, 2024**

Triton College Student Jael Rodriguez Wins Political Simulation Model Illinois Government (MIG) in Springfield



RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College student Jael Rodriguez won the Model Illinois Government (MIG) simulation, Feb. 29-March 3, in Springfield, Illinois. Rodriguez competed against 150 students from multiple colleges across Illinois and will now serve as secretary of state at next year's MIG competition. Other student participants from Triton included Emily Ureta-Hernandez, Sorin Valeanu, Mark Koria and Jesse Ellen Whisler.

"It felt incredible to hear my name being called as the winner for the elective position," said Rodriguez. "I was very surprised, but it felt amazing to be able to accomplish such a grand achievement."

According to George Lam, an Economics instructor who oversees Triton's MIG chapter, "MIG is an intercollegiate Illinois government simulation." It provides Illinois students an in-depth look and experience at how the Illinois state government works.

Jael Rodriguez served as House Democrat for a second year in a row, while Emily Urueta-Hernandez and Sorin Valeanu took on the roles of lobbyists. Jesse Ellen Whisler served as a Republican senator and Mark Kouria represented the House Republican Party.

Lam explained that winner Rodriguez took the initiative to organize Zoom sessions with past MIG alumni, which provided insights into what to expect during the simulation. Lam feels it helped students gain a deeper understanding of the simulation.

“Jael actively immersed herself in the MIG community and assumed a leadership role as a head delegate at Triton,” said Lam. “To prepare for the simulation, Jael conducted regular meetings with each member where she detailed explanations of bills, responsibilities and parliamentary procedures essential for effective participation.”

Serving as secretary of state next year, Rodriguez will play an important role in the simulation. Her responsibilities will include contributing to planning the simulation, participating in budgeting discussions and managing executive board voting.

Rodriguez said she will be preparing for next year’s 2025 MIG simulation by taking the necessary steps with MIG’s executive board. Besides that, she plans on using Lam as a mentor throughout the process.

“MIG is important because it provides students with a dynamic and firsthand platform to learn about government,” noted Lam. “It helps students develop leadership skills, engage in critical thinking and cultivate a sense of civic responsibility.”

Rodriguez’s advice for other students interested in MIG is to “just go for it.” She advised her peers to “move forward without hesitations.”

“If you’re a newbie, a first-year, or even if you’re not 100% prepared, don’t let that stop you. Don’t hesitate, be brave and go for big things!” she said.

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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, Ill., holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton’s dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high-quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities. Triton College is a member of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://www.triton.edu/>.