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Triton College

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Triton College's College for Kids Exploration Camp Guides Students to their Future Careers



Students at College for Kids Career Exploration Camp.

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's School of Continuing Education's interactive camp, College for Kids Career Exploration, (held June 10-27), was designed specifically for middle school students eager to discover their future career paths. Created to spark interest and inspire students, the camp allowed students to foster critical thinking and gain curiosity.

"We believe it's never too early for students to begin thinking about their future careers," said Dr. Bianca Sola-Perkins, dean of Continuing Education at Triton College. "College for Kids Career Exploration Camp was designed three years ago to provide a fun and engaging way to invite middle schoolers to Triton's campus, have them discover their passions and consider the wide variety of career opportunities available to them."

Providing a unique opportunity for young minds, the camp explored a variety of professions through hands-on activities, exciting tours and expert guidance.

All within Triton's district, the participating schools consisted of Bellwood School District 88, Lindop School District 92 and Oak Park Elementary School District 97, and community-based organization Friday Night Place.

Participating students were given a glimpse into several career opportunities, with fields ranging from science, technology, engineering, art and math (S.T.E.A.M), to health care, culinary and more. Through interactive classes, the students were able to meet with professionals from various industries, engaging in fun, educational activities that motivated curiosity and a passion for learning.

The campers visited local businesses, labs and professional settings, such as the Brookfield Zoo, Klarimont Kollections Automotive Museum in Chicago, the Village of Melrose Park Fire Department and the Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center. The professionals on location provided valuable advice and answered questions.

The final week of the camp finished with "Medical School," where the campers role-played the key responsibilities of a doctor and how to administer first aid in emergency situations. The "future doctors" learned how to use a stethoscope, stitch open wounds, administer lifesaving skills and more.

"Students don't know what they don't know. The goal of the camp is to offer student insight into a variety of career possibilities, some of which they may not even be aware of, so that they can begin making informed decisions about their future educational and career pathways," said Dr. Sola-Perkins.

According to Dr. Sola-Perkins, Triton was awarded the State of Illinois Trades School Grant, which allowed instruction, transportation and daily lunches free of charge for the students.

Dr. Sola-Perkins explained that the collaboration between District 88, District 92, District 97 and community-based organization Friday Night Place, helped to secure recruitment of campers and provide additional student support services.

"Each year, the camp has grown exponentially, and we are excited to see school districts and community-based organizations interested in partnering with us to bring this innovative programming to more students in the community," said Dr. Sola-Perkins. "We realize and appreciate the fact that this unique camp is only possible through the commitment and creativity of our generous faculty and community partners, for whom we are extremely grateful for."

The School of Continuing Education's goal was to give young students a "taste" of what Triton has to offer, exposing them to several areas of study. Going forward, Katie Rullo, associate dean of the School of Continuing Education, hopes to continue to host middle school camps so students can plan their future careers.

Triton's School of Continuing Education is dedicated to empowering young people and the community through education and hands-on learning experiences. With programming offered year-round, the school is committed to fostering innovation and striving to inspire the next generation of leaders and professionals.

For more information, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500, email askce@triton.edu, or visit triton.edu/ce.

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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/>.