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**Triton College**

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## **TRITON COLLEGE HELPS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACCELERATE PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS**

**RIVER GROVE, IL**—Triton College is a leading provider of dual credit for high school students across 25 school districts in the Chicago area. Through its Early College Program, Triton offers high school students the chance to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously, setting students on the path toward completing a college degree.

Triton is one of Illinois' 48 community colleges dedicated to expanding access to higher education by preparing high school students for college level coursework and lowering college costs by shortening the time it takes to complete a college degree.

"We know that the needs of the workforce are ever evolving and that accessibility and affordability remain top of mind for our students. And we know that the need for skilled workers across our communities is greater than ever," said Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore. "Triton has acknowledged these realities in ways that have helped reduce educational costs and empower students to begin their college journey sooner, graduate, enter the workforce, or pursue advanced degrees," she said.

Illinois community colleges offered 14,638 dual credit courses statewide, enrolling more than 82,600 individual high school students. According to a 2023 report by the Illinois Community College Board, high school students who take dual credit courses have substantially higher community college graduation and advancement rates than their peers who do not participate in dual credit.

In May 2024, Triton College celebrated the graduation of its first dual degree cohort, which included four students from Ridgewood High School who earned both their high school diploma and Associate in Science and Associate in Arts degrees. Every student in the cohort transferred to a four-year university as a junior.

Triton's new Early College program is growing, with 13 dual degree students from three in-district high schools expected to graduate in May 2025. And "we have welcomed 30 new dual degree students this fall from five high schools who are expected to graduate in May 2026," Moore said, emphasizing that partnerships with local high schools "are essential to providing these opportunities."

Through Triton College's Early College Program, students can earn college credits or work toward an associate degree or certificate while still in high school. The program provides access to Triton's extensive student support services, including tutoring, academic advising, computer labs, library, job preparation resources and more. Triton College offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs across seven academic pathways: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Business and Information Technology; Career and Technical; Culinary Arts and Hospitality; Health Sciences; Human and Public Services; and Science and Engineering.

Learn more about Triton College's Early College Program at [triton.edu/earlycollege](http://triton.edu/earlycollege).

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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/>.