



Triton College

# CONNECT

An e-newsletter from your community college

Spring 2022



## Three Student Delegates Travel to Springfield for Model Illinois Government

The Triton College Model Illinois Government (MIG) competed in a government simulation in Springfield, between March 3-6, 2022. The three Triton student delegates who attended were **Simon Koziol, Jonathan Witkowski and Juan Cervantes**.

During their time in Springfield, Cervantes was awarded The Robert Kent Award for Outstanding Lobbyist on March 6. Cervantes is a first-year Triton student who is studying economics.

MIG is – an intercollegiate simulation of the different branches of government in the state of Illinois, according to the Triton College Student Life webpage. Delegates began preparing for the 44th annual simulation during the fall semester.

There were over 100 student delegates in attendance from 10 colleges across Illinois. Special guests included Illinois Supreme Court Justice David Overstreet, who made an appearance before the delegates.

“I enjoyed listening to Justice Overstreet’s views on certain issues to do with law and the Constitution, as well as his perception on other

topics and cases he has experienced,” Koziol said.

He added that achieving a “position like Illinois Supreme Court justice is long, arduous, but extremely rewarding.” He feels that it is especially true when your judicial position is an elected one.

Triton delegates were able to address bills on topics such as voter identification and abortion. Koziol was a Democrat house representative while Witkowski was a Republican house representative. Cervantes was a lobbyist.

“I had to vote against my party constituency and help to bring others from my aisle to vote in a bipartisan manner,” Koziol said.

He noted that the most interesting bill he argued for was about service-animal abuse.

Economics professor George Lam said all three students did an “exceptional” job representing Triton College.

“The experience allowed them to better understand our state system of government; network with other delegates and think deeper about their career goals,” he said.



Triton College delegation at Springfield, IL: Johnathon Witkowski, Simon Koziol, Juan Cervantes, and George Lam.

## Elizabeth Demitro Named Coca-Cola Team Silver Scholar



Triton College student and Phi Theta Kapa (PTK) member **Elizabeth Demitro** has been named a 2022 Coca-Cola Team Silver Scholar.

Those who receive the scholarship will be awarded \$1,250.

The Coca-Cola Silver Scholar selection is based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition.

Winners are chosen based on academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community. Those who receive the scholarship are nominated for the academic team by their college administrators.

The program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

“It feels great to be recognized for the time and effort that I have put into helping others and being involved on campus,” said Demitro. “Joining PTK has allowed me to expand my leadership and communication skills. PTK has enabled me to create a network of relationships between fellow members and administrators.”

PTK advisor Antigone Sharris said she’s happy that Demitro is being recognized for her efforts. She noted that Demitro was selected from more than 2,000 applications this year.

“It just speaks volumes about how hard Elizabeth works. Congratulations! Well deserved,” she said.

Demitro feels that PTK’s advisors, including Johnny Urbina and Antigone Sharris, have been “extremely helpful” with guiding her in both personal and academic matters.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society designed to recognize excellence and encourage scholarship among students attending two-year colleges. Students who are looking to join PTK are required to have at least a 3.5 GPA and must have completed 12 credit hours to be eligible for membership.

Phi Theta Kappa was established in Missouri by two-year college presidents in 1918. Today, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) strives to encourage academic achievements for two-year college students. The four pillars PTK is built upon include academic; leadership; service; and fellowship. With more than 2 million members and 1,200 chapters, PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education. PTK is in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada and Germany. PTK was recognized in 1929 as the official honor society for two-year colleges by the American Association of Community Colleges. Triton College has been a PTK five-star chapter for over 10 years.

For more information about PTK, contact **Antigone Sharris** at [antigonesharris@triton.edu](mailto:antigonesharris@triton.edu).



# Instructor Seth McClellan's Film Wins Best Documentary at Socially Relevant Film Festival in New York City



Triton College's Mass Communications instructor **Seth McClellan** recently won best documentary for his film *Others Before Self*.

McClellan received the award at the Socially Relevant Film Festival in New York City on Sunday, March 20, 2022. His film profiles children at the Himalayan school Tibetan Children Village, which was founded by the Dalai Lama.

The hour-long documentary is a portrait highlighting the many different voices of children who attend the school.

"The children live in group homes and they have a lot of responsibilities," McClellan explained. "They cook, clean and study together. They have a lot of communal responsibilities. They put others before themselves."

McClellan said the documentary goes through the history of the school and the lessons that the school teaches. It highlights the students' hopes and dreams.

He explained that Tibet was invaded by China in 1949 and in 1959, China took over Tibet. Those living in Tibet became refugees and left for the

Himalayas. The Dalai Lama started the school for Tibetan children to help them to learn and grow.

McClellan shot the film in Dharamsala in northern India in the summer of 2019. His filming schedule was not interrupted by the pandemic.

McClellan's first film, *Little Wound's Warriors*, is about young people on a Native reservation in South Dakota. He said *Others Before Self* is something of a follow-up since it also profiles young people.

For the future, McClellan plans on participating in more film festivals and is having a screening of *Others Before Self* in Chicago in June. He explained that he will eventually take the film to India to show the injustices to the Tibetan people, but also showcase the beautiful and positive side of their lives.

Triton will offer mass communication-multimedia classes this summer. Students can take a cinema appreciation class both in person and online. These classes will begin June 6, 2022.

For more information, please contact **Seth McClellan** at [sethmclellan@triton.edu](mailto:sethmclellan@triton.edu).





## TRITON COLLEGE SUMMER 2022 YOUTH CAMPS





**NEW! COLLEGE FOR KIDS**  
Students entering sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grade are eligible!

**NEW! CAREER EXPLORATION**  
Students entering third, fourth and fifth grades are eligible!

For summer 2022 schedules and more information, visit  
[triton.edu/academics/continuing-education/youth-programs](http://triton.edu/academics/continuing-education/youth-programs).

To register or for more information, please contact the School of Continuing Education at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500, or [AskCE@triton.edu](mailto:AskCE@triton.edu).





## Students and Staff Collect Donations for Ukraine



Triton College students and staff collected donations for Ukraine from March 2-11. The supplies collected were donated to Ukraine Aid and Rebuilding Fund, Inc.

“Many students have been seeking counseling services to talk about the stress of the events happening in Ukraine,” said Triton College counselor Leslie Wester. “In the midst of their counseling sessions, students expressed how they wanted to be proactive and help those that are struggling.”

Besides being available assisting students with the stressors of war, Triton counselors were able to organize a donation drive.

Triton’s Counseling Department partnered with TRiO Student Support Services, Student Life, Triton College Student Association (TCSA) and Phi Theta Kappa to collect donations. Wester said they received additional help from the academic Engineering Department in the T Building. The Engineering Department helped assist with coordinating supplies on the east side of campus and collected kids’ items. Product drop-offs were located around campus, such as the A, B, D and T buildings.

Students and staff collected first aid supplies, gloves, hats, scarves, flashlights, diapers, blankets and

medical supplies, among other products. Wester said that so many supplies were donated that it was 12 carloads worth of donations.

“Meest-Karpaty, a local shipping company, was a donation site to ship items directly to Ukraine,” Wester said. “We also donated monetary gifts through Together Rising.”

Wester explained that Meest-Karpaty has been working to send items to expand their efforts into full humanitarian and refugee assistance. She noted that Triton students felt so strongly about the drive since the war in Ukraine effects a lot of them personally. Many students have direct ties to Ukraine or Eastern Europe, which is why they felt the effects of war so much.

“Some students have immigrated from those countries directly,” Wester explained. “I hope the donation drive helped students cope.”

Counselor Sylvia Sztark has set up a processing group for students who are dealing with the effects of world conflicts.

To donate, visit [ukraineaidandrebuiltfundinc.com](http://ukraineaidandrebuiltfundinc.com) or [togetherrising.org](http://togetherrising.org).

For more information, please contact [lesliewester@triton.edu](mailto:lesliewester@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3257.

## Triton College Selected for Partnership Program with Amazon

Triton College was one of 12 Illinois colleges selected for the Career Choice Program – a free tuition initiative started by megacompany Amazon.

Amazon announced in the fall of 2021 that they were going to invest \$1.2 billion in their over 750,000 employees to attend college for free.

Unlike many other reimbursement scholarship programs, the Career Choice Program will pay for all of the educational costs up front.

“Amazon employees will be able to continue working for Amazon while learning the skills for their next career,” said Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin

Current Amazon employees can choose from 180 colleges across the country that Amazon has selected for the program. Those who apply can be accepted into the school of their choice based on the school’s qualifications.

Amazon employees must meet certain criteria in order to participate in the Career Choice Program. This includes working as an hourly Amazon employee and having been with the company for three months.

Dr. Koslow Martin said Triton was selected for the program due to the connections and resources it has to offer. The selection process was based on colleges that can provide tools

and resources for what adult learners need to succeed.

An adult learner is someone who is enrolled in college who is 25 years or older. Adult learners have a wide range of cultural and educational backgrounds. Many adult learners work full time and attend school part time.

Since Triton has many different classes that meet these needs, Amazon saw it as a great opportunity.

Triton’s collaboration with Amazon makes sense since an Amazon location is less than a half mile from Triton’s campus. This new Amazon facility opened in Melrose Park in 2020.

“Amazon employees should check Triton’s website or talk to a Triton academic advisor if they’re interested in the Career Choice Program,” Dr. Koslow Martin said. “We have information on our website.”

Triton College advisors will help Amazon employees select the right program. Dr. Koslow Martin said she hopes Amazon employees will find a career that will be rewarding after they leave Amazon.

For more information, please contact **Brandon Marks** at [brandonmarks@triton.edu](mailto:brandonmarks@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3717; **Christopher Mendoza** at [christophermendoza@triton.edu](mailto:christophermendoza@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3148.





# Summertime

## Your time to move ahead!

Summer semester begins  
**May 23, 2022**

[triton.edu/summer](http://triton.edu/summer)

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a place  
for you.



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[triton.edu](http://triton.edu)

Inquiries regarding compliance with state and federal non-discrimination regulations may be directed to:

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