



THE PERFECT BLEND OF
SERVICE AND COMMITMENT



Triton College

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

Valuing the individual, educating
and serving the community.

VISION STATEMENT

A community with equitable
opportunity for growth and success.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shared success has been the hallmark for an exciting year at Triton College! With academic excellence, student achievement, and institutional engagement thriving, I invite you to view our exemplary highlights. Our commitment is to serve effectively and efficiently, driven by the shared values of our institution.

We are invested in innovative learning strategies through the Arts & Sciences division as well as our career-specific programs. The PLUS Lab and Robotics Welding are some of the educational offerings among our accomplishments that expand real opportunities for our students and their preparation for further education and professions in the workplace today. We are engaged in all levels of learning and you will see our commitment demonstrated through programs and services focused on accessible pathways to support students in achieving their goals.

Lifelong learning for us includes pathways that may begin in secondary schools and continue through postsecondary education and beyond, provided in multiple instructional formats for a wide-range of interests. We know continuing education is important for everyone. Retired seniors and Triton alumni are meaningfully involved with the college and vital to advancing education in the community.

Triton employees, faculty and staff, facilitate and enable the college to fulfill its mission in so many ways and we gladly recognize their efforts and the impactful work occurring during the year. In addition to quality and innovation in teaching and learning, and relationships with the community, our Strategic Plan supports an inclusive work environment that fosters employee engagement for the benefit of our students.

In valuing our communities, we have appreciated the opportunity for collaboration and partnership in campus events, sustainability initiatives, and newly established essential support for our students. Triton College has been an ongoing presence, actively engaging with the surrounding business community and various organizations to enhance the student experience.

We are pleased with our continued growth and development as an institution and look forward to more opportunities for greater impact in the lives of those we serve. I hope you will find the perfect balance in this report, reflecting the Triton mission of valuing, educating and serving the community.

Mary-Rita Moore
President





Dr. Sheldon Turner in the new PLUS Lab.



Triton College Welcomes PLUS Lab

Dr. Sheldon Turner, chairperson of Triton College's Science Department, believes Triton College students are capable of conducting university-level research. Dr. Turner's commitment to this belief spearheaded the creation of Triton's new Physical and Life Science Undergraduate Student (known as the PLUS Lab), located in Room D-210 (D Building). He's proud that he was able to bring this vision to life on campus.

Unlike a regular classroom that is used only for specific courses, the PLUS Lab is an open space with a modular design that can be easily moved around and utilized for all different types of scientific analysis across science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).



Robotic Welding: Andrea Blaylock, Triton's Engineering Technology instructor (right), is showing student Andrea Avalos how to operate the robotic welding machinery.

Robotic Welding Compelling New Addition to Technology Department

Triton College is offering an Engineering Technology and Robotics Welding Certification. Those pursuing this certification will learn about automated robotic welding and its related skills, including CNC plasma cutting and AutoCAD. Students can secure a certification in robotic welding to aid for employment hiring and/or advancement within various local companies.



Mock Classroom Encourages All Levels of Learning

Imagine a classroom that is versatile, unique, calming, comfortable, spacious and encourages all levels of learning. Triton College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Mock Classroom encompasses all of this and more. The Mock Classroom, located in Room G-107 (G Building), has elements of an early childhood classroom setting, but with more functionality than a regular classroom.

The classroom also consists of rolling tables, a cozy corner, books, a smart board, sensory toys and a 3D printer. Most importantly, the classroom incorporates elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with its Tinkering Lab.





Car Lovers Rejoice at Annual Car Show

Warm weather and sunny skies attracted over 2,000 car lovers and community members alike to Triton College's third annual Car Show. Hosted by Triton's Automotive Technology Department and Admissions Department, the event brought in nearly 600 different vehicles.

- Joe DiGiovanni won Best in Show with his 1970 Chevelle 454 LS6.
- Roy Thompson won Best Truck with his 1954 Chevy Pickup.
- Paul Polaski won Best Sports Car with his 1974 MG Midget.
- Justin Salinas won Students' Pick with his 1990 Ford Mustang GT.
- Jay Cannon won Best Vintage Car with his 1965 Pontiac Grand Prix.
- Frank Troost won Best Paint with his 1957 Chrysler New Yorker.
- Freddy Leon won Best Lowrider with his 1962 Chevy Impala.





Pictured at the GreenTown event displaying the award (back row, left to right) – Avery Smith, GreenTown Youth Delegate; Illinois State Sen. Don Harmon; Vicki Scaman, village president of Oak Park; Katrina Thompson, mayor of Broadview; and Darnell Johnson, CEO of Urban Efficiency Group. (Front row, left to right) Gary Cuneen, executive director of Seven Generations Ahead; Kate Wallace, GreenTown youth delegate; Judy Sheahan, US Conference of Mayors; Jessica Beal, American Beverage Association; Briana Taylor, Rising Senior at Northern Illinois University; and Cathy Adduci, village president of River Forest.





GreenTown Holds Climate & Equity Conference at Triton

GreenTown Climate & Equity held a conference tackling climate change, equity and sustainability at Triton College. The conference brought in 400 people from across the Midwest, including 125 youth, with topics including transportation, waste management, water conservation and equitable solutions to the climate crisis.

The focal point of the event was the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4), an initiative formed through a Memorandum of Understanding. The C4 was signed by 15 mayors around Cook County, including the villages of River Grove, Broadview, Oak Park, Forest Park, River Forest and Maywood, among others, with a mission to drive sustainability into those communities.



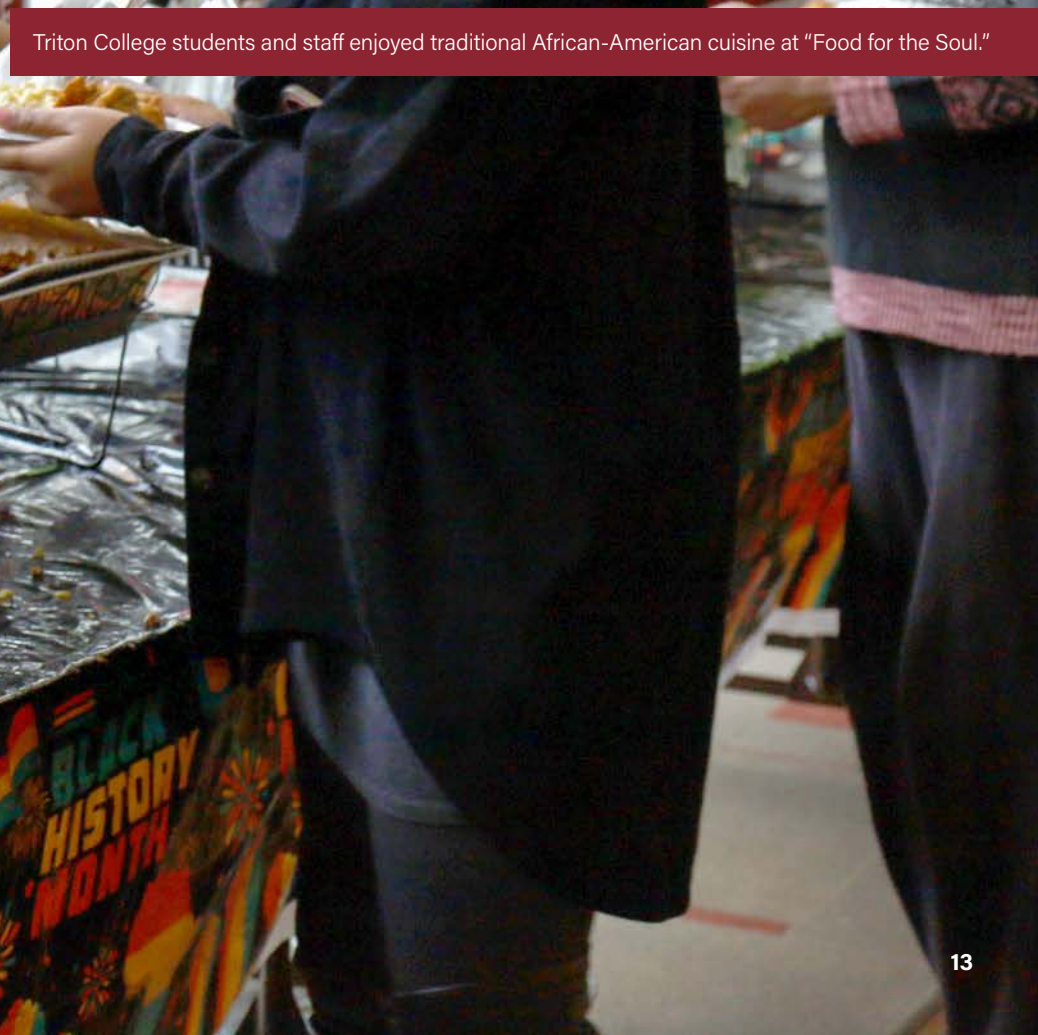
Hundreds of people from throughout the Midwest congregated at the GreenTown Climate & Equity Conference.



“Food for the Soul” Recognizes Black History Month

Triton College’s Office of Student Life, TRIUMPH and SURGE celebrated Black History Month with the event “Food for the Soul,” a delicious journey into the flavors of traditional African-American cuisine.

Foods served included baked chicken, fried chicken, greens with smoked turkey meat, green beans with potatoes, macaroni and cheese, dirty rice with ground turkey, sweet potatoes, mini corn bread, peach cobbler, banana pudding and pound cake.



Triton College students and staff enjoyed traditional African-American cuisine at "Food for the Soul."



Triton College and Pace Bus have created a new collaboration.



Pace Bus Program

Triton College and Pace Bus have built a new partnership to provide a free CDL Class B Commercial Driver's License Permit course! Triton and Pace are excited to train the next generation of professional bus operators.

The partnership included two pre-hire events at Triton College in July and September for hopeful job seekers to meet with Pace staff and to be screened.

Those who passed the screening process were then enrolled in a two-week training program, which included free books, fees and other expenses, provided by Pace at Triton College.

After participants passed the two-week training, they then went on to a six-week, paid opportunity with Pace.



The Hispanic Heritage Month panel included (from left to right) Dr. Gabriel Guzman, Chef Manny Uribe, Hector R. Hernandez, Axia Thalia Vazquez and Maria G. Solorio.

National Hispanic Heritage Month Commemorated with a Diversity Panel and Discussion

Triton College recognized National Hispanic Heritage Month with its Hispanic Heritage Month: *La Diversidad Nos Define* (Diversity Defines Us) Panel Discussion. The panel consisted of a variety of Triton College faculty and staff that are of Hispanic descent.

Moderated by Julia Willis, Triton College's dean of Students, the panelists were asked an assortment of important questions.

"My mother was a major example of resilience and grit for me," said Dr. Gabriel Guzman, a microbiology instructor and instructional area coordinator.

Axia Thalia Vazquez, scholarship coordinator, shared a personal story about her persevering, Puerto Rican family. Her family's hardworking values helped her finish her education at Triton College, even if it was a struggle.

Maria G. Solorio, lead, Custodial/Grounds, inspired attendees with positive statements and advice on how to live a happy life.

Other panelists included Hector R. Hernandez, retention specialist for Business and Technology, and Chef Manny Uribe, the chairperson for Hospitality Industry Administration.



(From left to right) Ardelia Neal, Alumni Association Council member and 2022 Wall of Fame recipient; Tina Lilly, Alumni Relations director; Andy Hock, president of the Alumni Association Council; and Gina Pesko, Alumni Association Council member.

Alumni Association Attended Summer Community Events

The Triton College Alumni Association attended several community events throughout the summer months, such as the River Front Fest in River Grove, Maywood Fest, the Taste of Elmwood Park, the Village of Elmwood Park Circle Car Show and the Elmwood Park Fourth of July Parade.

The association aimed to mingle and build camaraderie with community members at these events, as well as pass out Triton swag.

Tina Lilly, Triton's Alumni Relations director, feels that participating in neighborhood events helps build relationships with others, as well as inform the public about Triton.



Walk for Wishes Raises Money for Cancer

Triton College's Chi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and the Triton College Student Association (TCSA) participated in Make-A-Wish 2022 Walk for Wishes – Illinois at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Triton's PTK exceeded their goal of \$4,000 by raising \$4,142.

This was PTK's first year participating in Walk for Wishes, noted Johnny Urbina, director of Student Services.

Triton College's Chi Zeta and TCSA led as team captains over eight other PTK chapters. In total, 11 Triton students from PTK and TCSA were in attendance.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Chi Zeta Chapter chose to raise money for childhood cancer research as a part of their Honors In Action project. This project combines academic research and action-oriented service to address real-world challenges in communities.



(From left to right) Ismael Medina, Ian Garcia, Whitney Romero, Amanda "Mak" Marchese, Moises Rodriguez, Johnny Urbina, Adrian Albor, Anthony Vazquez, Journey Manuel, Adrian Flores and Hunter Fitch.

“Wall of Fame” Ceremony Acknowledges Notable Alumni

The Triton College Alumni Association hosted the 2023 Wall of Fame Ceremony. The evening included the induction of nine outstanding alumni into Triton College’s Wall of Fame (B Building Foyer).

“This honor is for those who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in their community and their work,” said Tina Lilly, director of Business Services. “Their names and pictures will be admired for generations.”

The 2023 alumni honorees included Bill Kim, Michaleen “Micki” Lewis, Dominic G. Panico, Joseph Prignano, Adrian Schaffer, Michelle (Sirants) Spizzirri, Rocco Spizzirri and Katrina R. Thompson. Thomas Cleary was honored posthumously.



Chef Bill Kim graciously accepted his award.



(From left to right) – Seated: Joseph Prignano; Rocco Spizzirri; Dominic Panico; and Katrina Thompson.
 Standing: Chris, Valerie and Rosemary Cleary (children and wife of Thomas Cleary, posthumous inductee); Michaleen Lewis; Michelle Spizzirri; Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore; Bill Kim; and Adrian Schaffer.



Chef Bill Kim Inducted into Wall of Fame

Honored alumnus Bill Kim, an award-winning Chicago chef, restaurateur and cookbook author, said being inducted into the Wall of Fame was a “full circle” moment for him.

Kim immigrated to the United States from Seoul, South Korea, at the age of 7. He realized he liked to cook when he first arrived as an immigrant, making his family bologna sandwiches and English muffin pizzas.

Kim decided to attend Triton after attending a college fair his junior year of high school, realizing Triton had a Hospitality Program. He felt attending a community college was an ideal situation for him since he could stay at home while receiving his degree.

“This is very magical for me,” he explained.



“As a working student, I received an excellent education on my own terms through hands-on training and knowledge beyond the classroom.”

Bill Kim
 Chef



Troy-Mart Launches Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting

Troy-Mart, Triton College's newest food pantry, held a grand opening and ribbon cutting in Room A-106G (A Building).

The celebration included remarks from Mary-Rita Moore, Triton College president, and Julia Willis, Triton College's dean of Students. Both President Moore and Willis participated in the ribbon cutting.

"Troy-Mart is another example of the rich resources that we offer our students," said President Moore. "Troy-Mart, along with Troy Rides, are great additions that will provide essential support for those in need."

Located discreetly in the Counseling Department, Troy-Mart offers healthy hot and cold food options for students.

"We're also providing personal items such as detergent, toothbrushes, toothpaste and hand sanitizers," explained Willis.



Troy Rides Provides Transportation for Students

Julia Willis, Triton College's dean of Students, is excited about Troy Rides, a service provided for those who have a transportation need. Powered by Lyft, Troy Rides will take students home, to school, to work and to their internships. To utilize the service, students must provide proof of residency, student status, employment and live within a 12-mile radius of Triton.



Sal Siriano



Risè Sanders-Weir

Sal Siriano and Risè Sanders-Weir Named Faculty of the Year

Dr. Susan Campos, vice president of Academic Affairs, proudly presented faculty member Salvatore Siriano with the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty of the Year Award and adjunct faculty member Risè Sanders-Weir with the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award at a Triton College board meeting.

Both Siriano and Sanders-Weir were recognized by the board of trustees for their accomplishment.

Siriano holds degrees in music composition. His audiovisual work *Static Interludes* was featured at Earth Day Art Model 2023, a global telematic and media event hosted by Purdue's School of Engineering and Technology.

Sanders-Weir has been an adjunct instructor at Triton College since 2011 and teaches Cinema Appreciation remotely.

"It's very humbling to be selected amongst several energetic peers," said Sanders-Weir. "I feel very proud."

Sanders-Weir also won the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award at their banquet in Bloomington/Normal, Ill. There were 23 nominees from community colleges around the state.

Yoshio Yamashita Celebrates 100th Birthday

Former Triton College noncredit continuing education golf instructor Yoshio Yamashita celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year. Yamashita had his friends and family in attendance at the golf-themed party, as well as Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore.

Yamashita's daughter, Nancy Lind, said her father loved teaching golf at Triton College, explaining that he taught part-time classes in the evenings and on weekends.

"Golf has always been my dad's passion," she said. "He enjoyed sharing his love for golf. It was so gratifying for him to teach others how to play the sport."

Yamashita was born on Jan. 12, 1923, in Hawthorne, Calif. According to Lind, Yamashita had to go into an internment camp as a young man. Afterwards, he served in World War II in Germany and came to Chicago after his duty. While in Chicago, he attended Northwestern University and Loyola University Chicago and received a degree in chemistry. Yamashita taught at Triton from June 1994-November 2000 and then again from June 2004-September 2012.

Yamashita married Kay (Kudo) and had three daughters – Janice Miles, Hope Yamashita and Nancy Lind.

"My dad enjoyed helping people," noted Lind. "That's why Triton was so beneficial for him. He truly felt like he was inspiring and guiding others."



Top row: Nancy Lind (Yamashita's daughter) and Yamashita's grandchildren – Holly Lind and Kevin Lind. Bottom row: Yamashita and Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore.



Co-Worker Connect and Camaraderie Corner occasions are both fun and engaging!

Co-Worker Connect and Camaraderie Corner Build Relationships

Triton College's Professional Development Center (PDC) hosts "Co-Worker Connect" events every month, with weekly events occurring in June and July. These gatherings include digital scavenger hunts, office Olympics, a holiday tea party in December and more.

According to Susan Rohde, the director of the Professional Development Center, Co-Worker Connect serves two purposes – an opportunity for employees to step away from their offices for short breaks and allows them the chance to interact informally with other employees from across the campus.

"Co-Worker Connect has been a campus occurrence since 2018 and President Mary-Rita Moore has recently expanded it," said Rohde. "These popular events are well attended and employees appreciate their short respites. Many employees point out that our snow cone event brought back many wonderful childhood memories to them."

The PDC also hosts a Camaraderie Corner during the busy months of August and January, when many employees cannot leave their offices. Rohde travels around Triton's campus delivering small treats to Triton employees, such as coffee, donuts and other goodies.

One important aspect of Camaraderie Corner is the opportunity to write individual notes of appreciation in support to a co-worker. The PDC gathers these notes and distributes them all around campus. Employees love the surprise of opening an interoffice envelope with a note of thanks from their co-workers and supervisors.



SHARED VALUES AWARD WINNERS



Doug Peck,
Horticulture/HIA –
Shared Values Award for
Collaboration



Christin Wittman,
TRIO – Shared Values
Award for Diversity



Gerardo Porras-Nava,
Business Office – Shared
Values Award for Integrity



Deb Kaczmarek,
Center for Access and
Accommodative Services –
Shared Values Award for Equity



John Pechacek,
Admission Office – Shared
Values Award for Excellence

Faculty and Staff Received Shared Values Awards

Faculty and staff honored at the 2023 Triton College Retirement and Recognition Ceremony were filled with happiness and gratitude. Many different achievements were celebrated at the ceremony, including the winners of the Shared Values Awards.

“The Shared Values Awards are given to those who reflect the five key values of Triton College, which are Collaboration, Diversity, Integrity, Equity and Excellence,” said Susan Rohde, director of the Professional Development Center. “The whole Triton community is encouraged to nominate individuals, as well as one campus employee team for these Shared Values Awards.”



East Leyden students pose with Troy, Triton's mascot.

Triton Week Successful with High Schoolers

Triton College programs and clubs were on display at Leyden high schools as they celebrated Triton Week at both East and West Leyden. The day-long fair at each school was organized to promote post-secondary pathways for current Leyden students.

Representatives from nearly 20 different Triton programs hosted booths with information, giveaways and interactive activities for students. Triton's mascot, Troy the Trojan, made an appearance and became instantly popular among students.

"College is about academics and cocurricular programs," explained Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. "Triton Week gives students a chance to see how Triton can prepare them for their career and beyond."

“Empty Bowls” Helps Fight Worldwide Hunger

The Triton College Hospitality Industry Administration (HIA) students participated in the fundraiser “Empty Bowls” at Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRF).

“Empty Bowls” is a bowl-of-soup fundraiser hosted at OPRF according to Bridget Doherty, an art instructor and teacher sponsor for “Empty Bowls” at OPRF. For one night, community members are invited to enjoy delicious soup in a handmade, glass bowl, with all proceeds going to organizations that fight hunger. OPRF pottery students along with local artists created the handmade bowls, while local restaurants and businesses donate the soup and bread to fill them.

This was a significant year for the fundraiser because it was the 20th anniversary and the first in-person “Empty Bowls” event in three years due to the pandemic.

Chef Manny Uribe, Hospitality Department chairperson, said six students from the HIA 277 Catering Management class participated in “Empty Bowls.” The students made broccoli cheddar, roasted butternut squash and pozole soups for the occasion, learning how to create vast quantities of soup for a large amount of people.



(From left to right) Brian Carreno, Luis Leiva, Karina Torres, Julian Dvorak, Dahlia Corral and Chef Manny Uribe.



Kirby Puckett, Jr. (right), with Dr. Christopher Parker, the president of the NJCAA.

Baseball Player Kirby Puckett Inducted into the NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame

Triton College baseball great and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett was posthumously inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Foundation Hall of Fame June 8 at their awards dinner in Charlotte, N.C.

His son, Kirby Puckett, Jr., accepted the award on behalf of his father and the Puckett family.

After attending Bradley University, Puckett transferred to Triton and had great success in a Trojan uniform in the spring of 1982. He led Triton to a 57-12 overall record and a trip to the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colo.

In the 1982 season, Puckett hit .472 with 16 home runs and 78 RBIs, along with 28 doubles, eight triples and 42 stolen bases. He was selected as a First-Team NJCAA All-American and was named NJCAA Player of the Year.

In 1999, Puckett was inducted into the Region 4 Hall of Fame and 2001 into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame following a successful 12-year professional career with the Minnesota Twins, including winning two World Series titles in 1987 and 1991.

Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and Garrick Abezetian, associate vice president of Athletics, were proudly in attendance at the dinner.



Monraia Wilson

Monraia Wilson became the first NJCAA All-American representing the Triton College women's Basketball Program in 29 years. She also was named Region 4 Division I Player of the Year. Wilson finished the season ranked eighth in the nation in steals (98) and 35th in assists (122). She finished eighth all time in Triton history with 858 career points.

The Hoffman Estates native graduated from Triton in May of 2023 and received a full athletic scholarship at Tusculum University in Greenville, Tenn. Wilson also left her mark in helping women's basketball win their first regional title since 1994 as a freshman in 2021.

"I'm so happy," she said. "We hadn't had that in 29 years. My name will forever be stamped there. I want people to remember me not only from basketball, but also as a person. I'm a person of my word. Recruiting of Triton basketball skyrocketed. People want to follow and join. That's what it's all about."

Kimani Coffee

Kimani Coffee from the Triton track & field team placed third in the discus throw at the NJCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships held in May of 2023 in Utica, N.Y.

The Proviso West High School graduate posted a throw of 42.76m. His showing also earned him NJCAA All-American status.

"It means a lot," Coffee said. "It means I know where I am in track and also where I want to be. I know there's a lot more room for improvement. It's more responsibility for my brain and taking responsibility for my body."

Coffee is attending Morgan State University in Baltimore.







(From left to right) Connor Svantner (157), eighth place; Elon Rodriguez (133), fourth place; and Anthony Schickel (125), fifth place.

Wrestling Team

The Triton College wrestling team wrapped up their best season under head coach Tim Duggan, as the Trojans brought home three All-Americans at the NJCAA Wrestling Championships held March 3 and 4 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Elon Rodriguez placed fourth at 133, Anthony Schickel was fifth at 125 and Connor Svantner was the final Triton NJCAA All-American with an eighth place showing at 157.

"Our team had real high hopes going in," Duggan said. "We started off well (winning seven first round matches). But in the round of 16, we lost some really tight matches and had some things that didn't go our way. Still to get three NJCAA All-Americans is quite a step for our program. We set our standards high. Each year we'll continue to get better and know what we'll have to do to fight for a national championship."

During the All-American ceremonies the final night of the tournament, Duggan was named National Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year. "I knew that I was in the running and what's special about the award is that it's voted by the coaches. I thought that was really nice and to receive such a high honor from the other coaches meant a lot to me."



The Cernan Earth and Space Center's 50th Anniversary of Capt. Eugene "Gene" Cernan's Apollo 17 Mission Receives Positive Feedback

The Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center's 50th anniversary celebration of Capt. Eugene "Gene" Cernan's Apollo 17 Mission received positive feedback from the Triton district and beyond, attracting a wide variety of visitors.

The celebration began Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, and ran through Saturday, April 8, 2023.

The most exciting temporary exhibit was the lunar sample, also known as a moon rock, actually collected during Capt. Cernan's Apollo 17 NASA Mission in 1972. The moon rock was encased within a lucite pyramid and sat atop a lighted pedestal for public viewing.

"Many visitors remarked how the "moon rock" looked like a charcoal briquette," noted Kris McCall, director of the Cernan Earth and Space Center. "They didn't expect for it to be almost black, but that's because the sample came from one of the dark areas on the lunar surface which was filled in by ancient lava flows."

According to McCall, visitors have traveled from near and far to see Triton's new exhibits, with field trips ranging from the city of Chicago to the far western suburbs.

APOLLO XVII
50TH
ANNIVERSARY

Cernan Earth and Space Center



This Apollo 10 spacesuit is on display in the Cernan Earth and Space Center.



The most exciting part of the exhibit was this lunar sample, commonly known as a moon rock.



Mario Porras, director of RSVP (left), and Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore, proudly presented several awards to volunteers.



(From left to right) Minerva McLaren, volunteer coordinator; Beth Sanfilippo, program assistant; and Mario Porras, director of RSVP, at the celebration.



RSVP Held 40th Anniversary Luncheon

Triton College's AmeriCorps Seniors Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) held a special luncheon at White Pines Golf Club in Bensenville. The celebration was to recognize RSVP's 40th anniversary as a Triton College program.

Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore gave opening remarks to over 100 people in attendance. Besides lunch, the event also included door prizes, raffles and recognitions.

- Volunteers who served the most hours this year (Jan. 1, 2023-Oct. 31, 2023) – Brevitt Stump (616 hours), who serves at Edwards Hines, Jr. VA Hospital; Bertha Parker (436 hours) who serves at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital
- Most hours of volunteer service over the past 10 years – Mary Siebler (9,847.25 hours), who serves at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital
- Volunteer stations that have been the longest serving community partners – Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (since 1983) and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital (since 1984).

"RSVP serves the many needs of our communities, expanding from West Suburban Cook County to Southern DuPage County," said Mario Porras, director of RSVP. "Our volunteers provide assistance in a variety of capacities, from helping in local food pantries, to the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, to our tax program."

The annual event is a way to recognize and thank the volunteers and community partners who have assisted with RSVP.



Proud Adult Learners were recognized at the Adult Education Graduation and Ceremony.

Adult Education Graduation and Ceremony Commemorates Adult Learners

Triton College's Adult Education Department hosted their 45th Annual GED Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration, commemorating the accomplishments of 112 Triton's Adult Education students.

The ceremony honored ESL Program completers, Westlake Health Foundation Scholarship Program completers, Board of Trustees Scholarship recipients, National Adult Education Honor Society inductees and Illinois High School Diploma (formerly High School Equivalency) graduates.

The 14 students who completed Triton's General Educational Development (GED) Program were given the full graduation experience by walking into the auditorium with their caps and gowns to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance*.

SEED Graduation Recognizes Student Accomplishments

Triton College's Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS) held a graduation for 11 students who completed the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) Program.

The graduation consisted of several speeches, with the graduates receiving a medallion and certificate at the end of the ceremony. All were invited to stay and enjoy refreshments and cake with the attendees.

Marissa Bloodgood, a SEED graduate, felt very proud to be participating in the ceremony. Bloodgood said she learned how to take the bus from her Brookfield home to Triton, which helped her gain independence.

"My advice for other SEED students is to never give up," she noted.



(From left to right) Chase Turner, Francisco Carrillo, David Goff, Renee Piagentini, Marissa Bloodgood, Deshaan Johnson, Jazmin Gutierrez, Ramon Gonzalez and Luis Beteta.



It's graduation day!



Triton College encouraged these students to accomplish their goals!





Graduates were all smiles at Commencement.



Commencement

Triton College graduates joyously gathered for the 2023 Commencement Ceremony, held at the Rosemont Theatre. Over 420 graduates proudly walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.

Triton College Student Association (TCSA) President Whitney Romero gave a thoughtful reflection and remarks at the ceremony.

On campus, Romero was also a peer mentor, student leader and an orientation leader.

"I hope I can inspire others to take on leadership roles in their community," he said.



Hajar Mesra

Hajar Mesra of Norridge graduated from Triton College's Radiologic Technology Program. Mesra was excited to graduate because she knows it will lead her to her goal of helping others.

Mesra was born and raised in Tetouan, Morocco, which is south of Spain. She originally came to the United States in 2011 but decided to return to Morocco. After doing some soul searching, she immigrated to the United States in 2019.

She studied radiologic technology, a field she chose, learning of it when a radiologist helped her grandfather discover his cancer. "The Triton College community welcomed me with open arms," she said. "Now that I have graduated, I just want to go further."



Miguel Sahagun

Miguel Sahagun of Melrose Park, a May 2023 Triton College graduate, was the recipient of the Triton Scholars Program-Elmhurst University Full-Ride Scholarship. The scholarship is worth approximately \$80,000.

At Elmhurst University, Sahagun plans on studying public health and aspires to become a doctor.

While a student at Triton, Sahagun volunteered 100 hours of his time to Triton's Academic Success Center as a tutor. He has tutored many students in multiple subjects.



Derricka D. Parks

Derricka D. Parks of Forest Park was proud to graduate from Triton College's Nursing Program in May 2023. After overcoming many obstacles, Parks finally feels like she achieved her goal.

After Parks graduated from Proviso East High School in 2004, she decided to attend Triton to obtain her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Certificate.

With a CNA certificate under her belt, Parks knew she wanted to continue her education and become a registered nurse (RN). However, her life took an unexpected turn.

"In 2009, I stopped my education," she explained. "My daughter was born in 2007 and she was only 2 years old. I wasn't able to continue and reach my goal of becoming an RN."

In 2015, Parks' fiancé passed away, which motivated her to finish her associate degree.

"I realized that I needed to pursue this dream," she said. "In 2017, I returned to Triton College to finish my degree. I feel like I've gone from the bottom to the top."



Pictured (from left to right) are Radiologic students Mehalis Papazoglou, Xochitl Sopoci, Hajar Mesra and Rachell Joy Baracoso with faculty member Nancy Rizo.

Triton College Students Win First Place at ISSRT Conference

Triton College's radiologic technology students won first place at the Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists (ISSRT) Conference's Scholar Bowl.

Radiologic students Mehalis Papazoglou, Xochitl Sopoci, Hajar Mesra and Rachell Joy Baracoso, who competed in the Scholar Bowl, were awarded medals, ribbons and a trophy.

The students had to answer several questions that were on their industry-standard exam.

Besides Triton's success at the Scholar Bowl, students also placed second and third in the Kahoot Review Quiz, out of a total of 180 students, winning gift cards.

"Since this was the first year that Triton attended this conference, we didn't really know what to expect," said Nancy Rizo, Triton's clinical coordinator. "Our students earned their trophy."



Juan Cervantes

Triton College student Juan Cervantes of Bensenville has always been interested in politics, so it meant a lot to him to serve as the president of delegation for Model Illinois Government (MIG). MIG is an intercollegiate Illinois government simulation. Cervantes along with two other Triton students participated in MIG.

Besides serving as president of delegation, Cervantes oversaw a team of lobbyists throughout the simulation.

There were over 225 other student delegates that participated in this year's simulation from multiple Illinois colleges.



Abyssinia Jurkowski

Triton College Scholars Program student Abyssinia Jurowski, along with four other students, were recognized for their academic achievements at a Triton College Board of Trustees meeting.

Jurkowski was homeschooled and moved from Virginia to Illinois to help her grandmother during the pandemic. She is attending Fisk University in Nashville and is a pre-medicine major.

Jurkowski wants to become an eye doctor because she feels the need to help people.



Gregory Skipper has been cutting hair for 40 years!

Gregory Skipper

Gregory Skipper of Broadview is passionate about the barbering industry and is excited to see a barbering program come to Triton College. Skipper has worked as a barber for 40 years and feels the profession is thriving.

Triton College's Barber Certificate will teach students techniques in cutting hair and styling, using cutting-edge and modern forms of barbering. The program will also prepare students for the exciting and fast-paced profession of barbering and hair design.

"Upon completion of the program, students will have earned a barbering certificate as well as college credit," he said. "Students can also go on to finish their associate degree if they chose."



Respiratory care is a popular and desired field.

Respiratory Care Program

If you're looking for a thrilling, sought-after career in saving lives and helping those in need, Triton College's Respiratory Care Program is for you! The program is excitedly coming to Triton's campus in the fall of 2024.

Respiratory therapists have a variety of responsibilities, such as performing diagnostic testing, assessing and diagnosing patients of all ages, administering pulmonary medications, managing ventilators, drawing blood, and assisting newborns and their mothers during high-risk deliveries. They also can treat asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), help patients with effective breathing and assist with rehabilitation from chronic respiratory conditions, among many other roles.



Hilary Meyer dean of Academic Success, spoke to eager students.

Early College Program

Triton College's Early College Program helps high school students get ahead in college – and in life! The Early College Program encompasses Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment and Dual Degree college programs, which allows high school students to enroll in college courses and to receive college credit.

According to Alexandria Terrazas, dean of Early College Programs, the Dual Credit Program enables high school students to take college classes taught at their high school by high school instructors who are qualified to teach the college courses. If they pass the course successfully, students can receive college credit at their high school. As for the Dual Enrollment Program, high school students can earn college credit by taking approved courses by their high school on Triton's campus.

Triton College is in its second year of offering the Dual Degree Program. This program allows selected in-district high school juniors the opportunity to complete their high school diploma and associate degree simultaneously. Over a two-year period, students can attend classes at the college that will fulfill the requirements for their high school diploma and associate degree, allowing students to move on to complete their bachelor's degree.



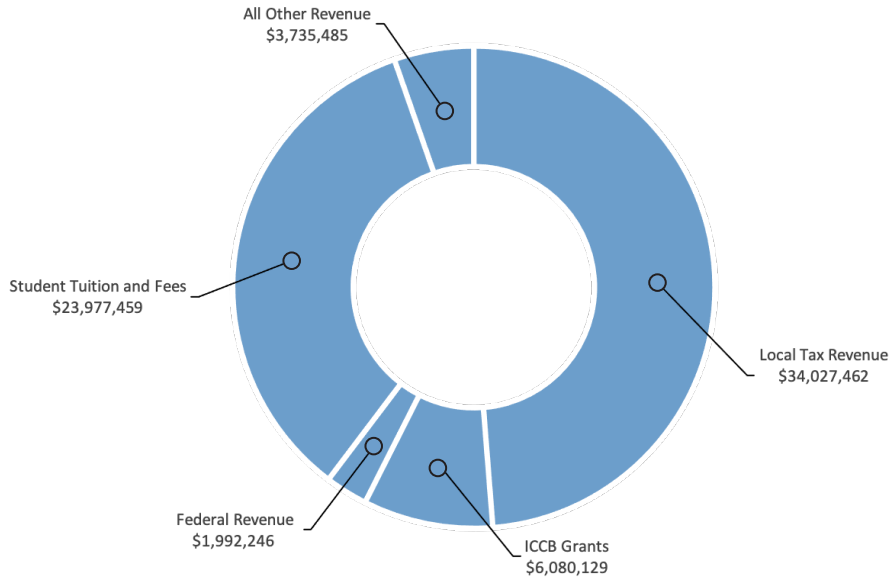
Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore gave remarks to an inspired crowd.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2023

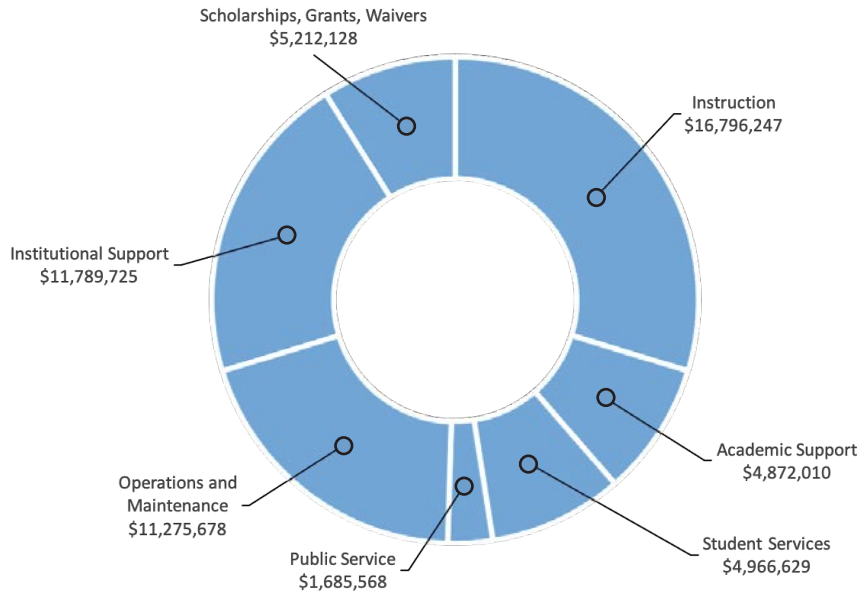
Triton College's budgeting model supports fiscal responsibility while remaining true to our vision of a community with equitable opportunity for growth and success. For fiscal year 2023, the college again received a clean, unmodified audit opinion from its external auditing firm. This confirms the accuracy, professional competence and transparency exhibited by Triton's financial reporting.

Below is the combined Educational Fund, and Unrestricted Operations and Maintenance Fund summary.

REVENUES - \$69,812,781



EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM - \$56,597,985



AWARDED FOR REPORTING EXCELLENCE

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recognized Triton College with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This was the 19th consecutive year Triton was recognized for its ACFR.

Revenues	\$69,812,781
Disbursements	\$56,597,985
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$13,214,796
Transfers to Other Funds	(\$7,280,628)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$27,768,749
Ending Fund Balance	\$33,702,917



WE APPRECIATE OUR PARTNERS

Triton College has partnerships with many local chambers of commerce:

- Bellwood Chamber
- Brookfield Chamber
- Grand Chamber by O'Hare (Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Leyden Township, Mont Clare, River Grove, Schiller Park)
- Chicagoland Chamber
- Forest Park Chamber
- Hillside/Berkeley Chamber
- Maywood Chamber
- Melrose Park Chamber
- Norwood Park Chamber
- Oak Park/River Forest Chamber
- Rosemont Chamber
- West Suburban Chamber
- Westchester Chamber

Triton also has several advisory partnerships with businesses in the following fields:

- Architecture
- Construction
- Automotive
- Diesel
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Hospitality



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