

# 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS:  
OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

# MISSION STATEMENT

Valuing the individual, educating  
and serving the community.

# VISION STATEMENT

A community with equitable opportunity  
for growth and success.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mark R. Stephens  
*Chairman*



Diane Viverito  
*Vice Chairwoman*



Tracy Jennings  
*Secretary*



Luke Casson



Glover O. Johnson III



Elizabeth Potter



Richard B. Regan



Kailee Harper  
*Student Trustee*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Celebrating 60 Years: Our Past, Present and Future

2024 was a remarkable year for Triton College. As I reflect on the accomplishments that have made our 60-year anniversary truly unforgettable, our anniversary was not just a celebration of the past six decades, but a testament to the strength, dedication and spirit that defines our college.

Throughout the year, we honored Triton's history while embracing new opportunities. We launched new and innovative academic programs designed to prepare students for in-demand careers, strengthened partnerships and celebrated the successes of our campus community. These accomplishments remind us of the impact we have made — and continue to make — in transforming lives and uplifting communities.

I am grateful for the hard work and commitment of each and everyone who contributed to the success of our anniversary events and initiatives—from the successful recovery of a 30-year time capsule to recognizing the academic achievement of our students, and from celebrating the dedication of our faculty to honoring our alumni for their exceptional contributions to the communities we serve. These activities have not only enriched this year's anniversary celebrations, but have also laid a strong foundation for Triton College's next 60 years and beyond.

The pages of this report tell the story of how Triton College is an institution of opportunity for students and the communities we serve. All of Triton's academic programs are tailored to meet industry demands and include real-world learning opportunities. Whether students are pursuing careers in technology, health care, business or the trades, our expanded offerings ensure that they are well-prepared for a rewarding and impactful career.

Additionally, our student-athletes have demonstrated their outstanding dedication, successfully balancing their coursework with competitive sports and achieving remarkable success in both areas. Students in our Performing and Fine Arts Program have enriched the campus and surrounding communities with a variety of arts and entertainment events, and a number of exhibitions featuring the work of our students and faculty. Triton College also offers a variety of dedicated support programs, such as Triumph and Surge, designed to ensure academic success and personal growth. Through mentorship, academic resources and a strong sense of community, we empower students to thrive and achieve their educational goals. Overall, the accomplishments of our students are a testament to the supportive environment at Triton College and the determination of our students to succeed.

As we move forward, let us carry this momentum into the future, reflecting Triton's mission of valuing, educating and serving the community.

*Mary-Rita Moore*  
*President*





# CELEBRATING MILESTONES

## Remembering Significant Occasions

This year marked a trifecta of milestones for Triton College! Our 60-year anniversary, attainment of a 10-year accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission and the joyous celebration of our students' achievement at commencement. Here are some highlights:



President Moore joined the campus community to unearth a time capsule.

## Unearthing Memories

The campus community came together to unearth a time capsule buried on campus for 30 years. After a successful excavation, more than 100 unique artifacts were recovered. A selection of artifacts was on display at the Triton College Library. The artifacts illustrate the sense of community and importance of education, which are still at the heart of our campus today.



## Honoring the Academic Achievements of Students

To honor the accomplishments of its graduating class of 2024, Triton held its 58th Commencement Ceremony on May 18. The college held a Nurse Pinning Ceremony on May 16 and a Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Completion Ceremony on May 20. A total of 1,100 Triton students graduated in May and, combined with graduates from August and December, the total number of program graduates reached 1,700. Impressive numbers! Triton's Adult Education Department hosted its 45th GED Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration June 8 to commemorate the accomplishments of 112 Adult Education students. The ceremony honored English as a Second Language (ESL) Program completers, Westlake Health Foundation Scholarship Program completers, Triton College Board of Trustees Scholarship recipients, National Adult Education Honor Society inductees and Illinois High School Diploma (formerly High School Equivalency) graduates. In July, Triton held a graduation to honor students who successfully completed the college's Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (S.E.E.D.) Program.

TRITON COLLEGE  
OFFERS

**OVER 120**

ASSOCIATE DEGREE  
AND CERTIFICATE  
PROGRAMS



Journey Manuel, TCSA president, at the 58th Commencement Ceremony.

# ACADEMICS



From left to right – Stephanie Bustos, Patricia Basisty, President Moore, Amelia Oldak and Tetyana Semehen.

## Triton Graduates its First Dual Degree Program Cohort

Four students from Ridgewood High School graduated this past May not only with their high school diplomas, but also earned associate degrees thanks to Triton College's Early College Program. With support, the graduates successfully balanced the demands of both high school and college coursework. Triton's program is a collaboration between in-district high schools and the college, enabling students to earn an associate degree while completing their high school education. The Ridgewood graduates represent Triton College's first Dual Degree Program cohort, with two students earning an Associate in Science degree and two earning an Associate in Arts degree while receiving their high school diploma. All four students are continuing their education, transferring to four-year universities as juniors. This achievement highlights the benefits of Triton College's Early College Program, providing students with a significant cost savings and advanced educational opportunities.



## New Respiratory Care Program Successfully Launched

Triton College welcomed its first student cohort in the new Respiratory Care Program. The program is designed to prepare students to become registered respiratory therapists — an in-demand career path. With state-of-the-art classrooms equipped with the latest technologies and expert instruction, our students will be prepared to make a vital impact in health care. According to Dr. Peter Jaswilko, Triton's Allied Health chairperson, respiratory therapists "are so in-demand that students who graduate from our program and pass the board exam could get a job in any hospital."

Respiratory therapists can improve patient outcomes, participate in research, evaluate interventions and technology, educate patients and their families, perform medical therapies and more. "Many individuals can't say that they work in a field where every single day they are saving human life," said Dr. Jaswilko. "That's what respiratory care therapists do ... they are constantly working to preserve and save lives."



Respiratory care students in the lab.

STATEWIDE  
GRANTS SUPPORTED  
**1,105 STUDENTS**  
HELPING THEM PURSUE  
CAREERS IN  
HEALTH CARE





Triton College has announced a new Barber Certificate Program designed to offer students a comprehensive education in the art and science of barbering.

## Pull Up a Chair

The Barber Certificate Program is now available, offering students a comprehensive education in the art and science of barbering. "Students will receive hands-on training with top-of-the-line equipment," said Nicholas Cobb, chair of the program. A barber for nearly 20 years, Cobb said the profession is thriving and Triton's certificate program will prepare students for a rewarding career. The college welcomed its first program cohort in the fall.

BARBER JOBS  
ARE EXPECTED  
TO GROW ABOUT

**9%**

BY 2031  
(BLS)



The Academic Success Center is flexible, inclusive and accessible.



## Study Spaces Matter

Flexible, inclusive and accessible are all words that describe Triton's newly designed Academic Success Center. Here, students work independently, meet with tutors or collaborate with other students in a relaxing environment. Triton is dedicated to assisting and providing resources for students with all different learning styles to meet their needs. The center has an assortment of work zones, a blend of open and comfortable spaces, a mix of table heights ranging from coffee tables to counters and various seating styles. It is a welcoming place of learning and discovery.



# STUDENT SUCCESS

## Kailee Harper Elected 2024-2025 Student Trustee

Kailee Harper of Brookfield, Illinois, is the Triton College student trustee for the 2024-2025 school year. "I feel very fortunate to be in this position," said Harper, who is also an active participant of the Triton College Student Association. After completing her studies at Triton, Harper intends to transfer to the University of Illinois Chicago to pursue civil engineering.



Kailee Harper



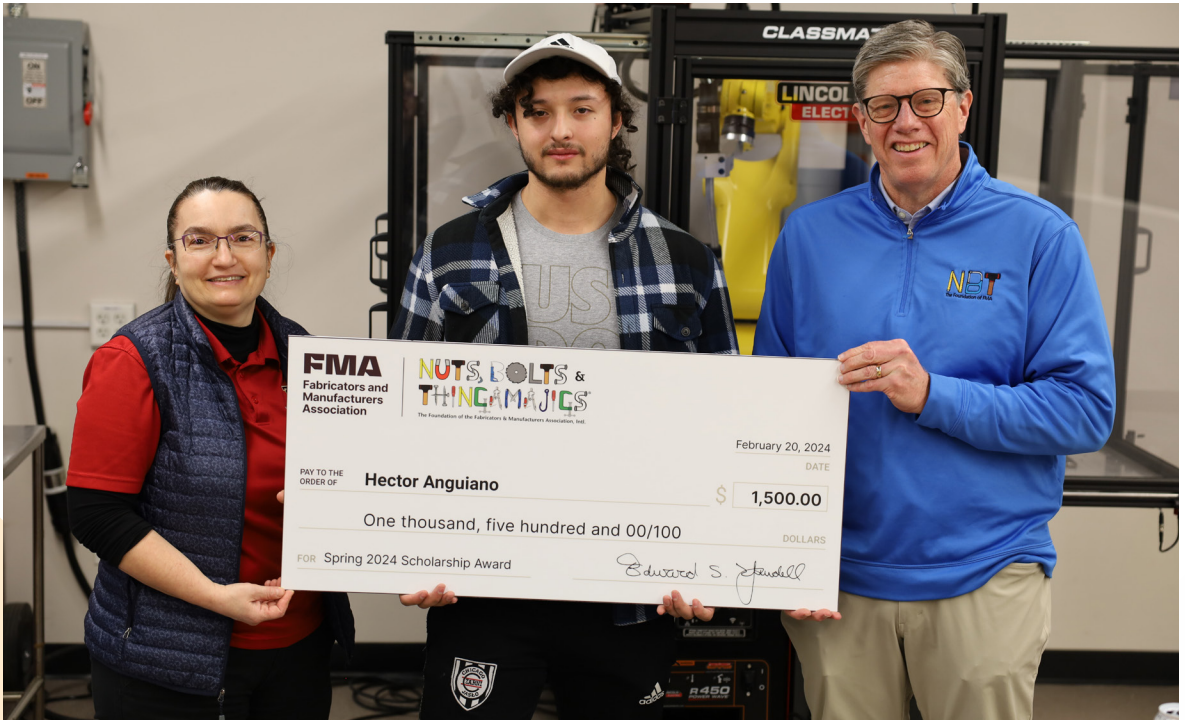
Jael Rodriguez

## Jael Rodriguez Wins Illinois' Model Illinois Government Simulation

Jael Rodriguez won the 2024 Model Illinois Government (MIG) simulation held in Springfield, Illinois. "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." Rodriguez competed against 150 students from multiple colleges across the state and will serve as secretary of state at the next MIG competition. Triton students Emily Urueta-Hernandez, Sorin Valeanu, Mark Kouria and Jesse Ellen Whisler also participated.

"MIG is an intercollegiate Illinois government simulation," according to George Lam, economics instructor who oversees Triton's MIG chapter. The simulation provides Illinois students with an in-depth experience at how the Illinois state government works. Rodriguez served as House Democrat for a second consecutive year, while Urueta-Hernandez and Valeanu took on the roles of lobbyists. Whisler served as a Republican senator and Mark Kouria represented the House Republican Party.

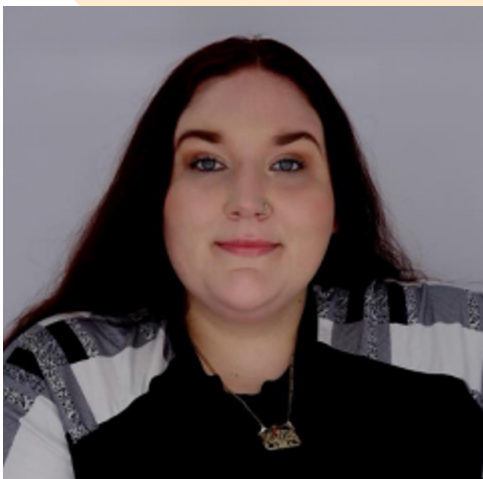




Antigone Sharris (left) and Edward Youdell (right) pose with Hector Anguiano (center) and his \$1,500 scholarship check.

## Hector Anguiano Earns Engineering Scholarship

Hector Anguiano received a \$1,500 scholarship from Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs (NBT), presented to him from Edward Youdell, NBT's president and CEO. "We have a wonderful partnership with NBT that provides exceptional opportunities for our students," said Triton College Engineering and Technology Chairperson Antigone Sharris. Anguiano, who is in his second year at Triton, said he is grateful for the scholarship money, which will help him pay for classes and books. Following his classmates at Triton, Anguiano hopes to pursue a career in electrical engineering or continue his educational pursuits. Anguiano said his father, who is a welder, inspired him to enter the field and Sharris "encouraged me and pushed me to be the best version of myself. I want to thank NBT for giving me this award."



Hallah Elder

## Hallah Elder Earns Lurie Children's Young Professionals Scholarship Award

Hallah Elder was awarded \$10,000 as the recipient of the Lurie Children's Young Professionals Scholarship Award. The award is given to students who exhibit leadership skills. "I am so proud of this scholarship and accomplishment," said Elder, who is pursuing a degree in special and secondary education. She is listed on the President's List and actively serves in a variety of leadership roles at the college. Elder is president of Common Ground, serves as an orientation leader, and is a member of the Triton College Student Association and a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). She is also an active participant of TRIO, TRIUMPH & SURGE.



Pictured, left to right – Rafael Rojas, Jordy Pinero, Mia De Leon, Ana Zulkowski, Adrian Lamb and Dr. Michael Flaherty.



## Honoring Our Scholars

Scholars Program students Mia De Leon, Ana Zulkowski, Adrian Lamb, Rafael Rojas and Jordy Pinero were recognized for their academic achievements at a Triton College Board of Trustees meeting. "This group of students really pulled together," said Dr. Michael Flaherty, director of Triton's Scholars Program. "They're all graduating from Triton two years out of high school, all on the President's List and earned a GPA of 3.9 or higher. They are extremely talented," he said. All five students transferred to four-year universities to continue pursuing their educational goals. "The Scholars Program helped me realize what I wanted to do for a career," said Pinero. "I want to continue with this level of success into the future."



## Success Does Not Have A Time Limit

Whitney Castle did not let age or a busy life stop her from reaching her academic goals. After years as a second-grade teacher, Castle sought to help people in a different way and pursued her dream of becoming a nurse. "Triton helped make my dream of becoming a nurse a reality," she said. At Triton, Castle earned an Associate in Applied Science in nursing degree and passed the National Council Licensure Examination, officially becoming an RN. Castle said that earning her nursing degree from Triton "shows that career change and growth do not have a time or age limit."

Whitney Castle





Chris Savaiano (right) with Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore, is the winner of the 2024 Pace Suburban Bus art competition.

## Chris Savaiano Wins Pace Bus Art Contest

Photography student Chris Savaiano is a winner of the 2024 Pace Suburban Bus art competition. In commemoration of its 40-year anniversary, Pace held an art contest inviting Triton students and others to decorate bus benches. "I've been taking photos for nearly five decades, so this feels like a great pat on the back," said Savaiano. "I feel very honored," he said, adding that he is grateful for support from Jill LoBianco-Bartalis, visual communications instructor, who encouraged him to submit his work. Savaiano's winning photograph illustrates the pomegranate fruit.

TRITON COLLEGE  
SERVES

**25**

TOWNS AND  
COMMUNITIES



# STUDENT-ATHLETES

## A Great Year to be a Trojan!

The men's basketball team earned the national runner-up spot in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division 1 championship game played in Hutchinson, Kansas, aired on ESPNU. The Trojans finished their season 34-3, tying the most wins in team history. The wrestling team was recognized for competing in the NJCAA's Wrestling Championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa. For a second straight year, the team was the Great Lakes District champions and Region 4 champs.

Trinity Barnes, guard, Triton women's basketball, broke Triton's 43-year scoring record and is the fourth Triton women's basketball player in the program's 50-year history to eclipse the 1,000-career-point total. Following commencement, Barnes accepted a full scholarship at a four-year university.

Five Triton College student-athletes earned the prestigious title of All-American, among other accolades:

- **Amar Augillard** was named the 2024 NJCAA DI Player of the Year Men's Basketball.
- **Dylan Williams** earned the Best Small Man Award at the March 30 NJCAA DI Men's Basketball championship game in Hutchinson, Kansas.
- **Ava Connerty**, Triton women's track and field, earned All-American status at the May 9-11 NCJAA D3 Outdoor Championship in Utica, New York.
- **Ghee Rachal**, Triton men's wrestling, was named the Triton College Athlete of the Month for December following his championship showing at the 32nd Art Kraft Memorial Tournament. **Anthony Schickel**, Triton men's wrestling, had a repeat run this past academic year as an All-American when he placed third at nationals — the highest for a Triton individual wrestler since 2018.

Five student-athletes from the men's basketball team also earned full scholarships at four-year institutions following Commencement.



TRITON COLLEGE  
SERVES  
**278**  
STUDENT-ATHLETES

From left to right – Assistant women's basketball coach Tim McKinney, Triton College Board Chairman Mark Stephens, Trinity Barnes and Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore.



Basketball team, from left to right – (front row) Jio Garcia, Triton College Board Chairman Mark Stephens, head coach Brian Burns, Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and Dylan Williams.  
 (Second row) Isaiah Quinteros, Tim Taiwo and Dior Connors.  
 (Back row) Tolu Samuels, Vijay Wallace, Didier Maleng, Antonio Lisenbee, Amar Augillard and Ilija Varajic.



Wrestling team, from left to right – Ghee Rachal, Connor Svantner, Anthony Bitner, Drew Mulay, Anthony Schickel, head coach Tim Duggan, assistant coach A.J. Blahut, Ashton Hayhurst, Cameron White, Ty Ladd, Bennett Eichert and Andre Giurini.



# STUDENT SERVICES



Pictured on the day of the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (S.E.E.D.) Program Completion Ceremony are Triton College representatives with S.E.E.D. Program graduates.

## Triton's Neurodiversity Efforts Garnering National Attention

Triton College's neurodiversity efforts and strategies gained national attention this year. The February/ March 2024 edition of *American Association of Community College's (AACC) CC Journal* showcased Triton College and Hilary Meyer, dean of Academic Success. The feature follows an exclusive article published this past fall in *AACC's CCDaily*. In addition, Meyer's article *From Awareness to Acceptance to Action: Build a Neuroinclusive Campus Community*, was published in *The Society for College and University Planning* in August. Colleges like Triton have increased efforts to welcome and support neurodiverse students.





Troy Mart student worker Eva Leach.



## Troy Mart Awarded

The Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) donated \$10,000 to Troy Mart — Triton College's food pantry. Troy Mart also received a \$2,500 donation from Sysco Chicago. The donations help Triton to expand its offering to students. Opened in 2023, Troy Mart serves hundreds of students by providing food and other basic need items. It's partners like Sysco and ECMC that enable Triton to continue fostering a nurturing and supportive environment, enabling students to focus on their studies.

# NOTABLE FACULTY/STAFF

## Celebrating Excellence in the Classroom

Antigone Sharris, full-time faculty and chair of Triton College's Engineering Technology, received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award. The award recognizes college faculty who have gone above and beyond in teaching, mentorship and service, making a significant impact on both students and colleagues. "This award feels very humbling," said Sharris. "The most rewarding part about my job is the students. It is so gratifying to hear when a student earned a degree and found a job. I want them to find success." Sharris is also an advisor for the Chi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and leads youth-based programs in STEM. She earned a Master of Science in industrial operations and management from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Science in occupational and practice arts education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Marina Demos, adjunct psychology instructor, received the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award. "I feel beyond grateful," said Demos. "Our Triton students make teaching such a pleasure." Demos has taught at Triton since 2001 and earned a Master of Science in clinical psychology from Concordia University Chicago.



Marina Demos (left) and Antigone Sharris (right)

## Attracting Students to the Geosciences

Dr. Sheldon Turner, chair of Triton's Science Department, participated in the STEMSEAS Program and, based on his experience, co-authored the article, *The Benefits of Empowering Community College Geoscience Faculty* in *Eos*, a science magazine of Advancing Earth and Space Sciences (AGU). As part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Student Experiences Aboard Ships (STEMSEAS), Dr. Turner, along with 13 other U.S. faculty members from two-year colleges, embarked on a 10-day expedition to not only conduct research at sea, but to learn how to recruit future student participants and faculty mentors to the program.

Dr. Sheldon Turner spent 10 days at sea conducting oceanic research with the STEMSEAS Program.





# SHARED VALUES AWARDS

The Shared Values Awards are given to individuals across campus who reflect the five key values of Triton College: Collaboration, Diversity, Integrity, Equity and Excellence. The 2024 winners are:

- **Mary Wink** – earned the Shared Values Award for Collaboration.
- **Christine DeBush** – earned the Shared Values Award for Diversity.
- **Terri McConville** – earned the Shared Values Award for Integrity.
- **Karina Santos** – earned the Shared Values Award for Equity.
- **Freida Spiller-Iverson** – earned the Shared Values Award for Excellence.
- **Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS)** for Equity.
- **Library Circulation Desk** for Excellence.
- **Operations & Maintenance Set-up Crew** for Collaboration, **Shared Values Award Team** for Recognition.



Mary Wink  
Shared Values Award  
for Collaboration



Christine DeBush  
Shared Values Award  
for Diversity



Terri McConville  
Shared Values Award  
for Integrity



Karina Santos  
Shared Values Award  
for Equity



Freida Spiller-Iverson  
Shared Values Award  
for Excellence



Center for Access and  
Accommodative Services (CAAS)  
for Equity



Library Circulation Desk  
for Excellence



Operations & Maintenance  
Set-up Crew for Collaboration

# CAMPUS COMMUNITY EVENTS

## One of Nature's Greatest Spectacles

Nearly 2,000 people gathered on campus in April to view a solar eclipse that swept across the continental United States. Students, faculty and staff, along with members of the surrounding community, gathered outside Triton's Cernan Earth and Space Center to safely view the eclipse, thanks to special eclipse glasses sold at Cernan's Star Store. In preparation for the eclipse, Cernan featured the show, *ECLIPSE: The Sun Revealed*, in its Planetarium. The event also garnered significant news coverage prior to and day of the eclipse.



Triton College experienced one of nature's greatest spectacles on Monday, April 8.



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

## Triton Week at Leyden High Schools

Triton College programs and clubs were on display at Leyden high schools as students celebrated "Triton Week." Half-day fairs were held at each high school to promote post-secondary pathways. Representatives from nearly 20 different Triton programs hosted booths, provided giveaways and held interactive activities. Triton's mascot, Troy the Trojan, made an appearance, quickly becoming popular with the students!



# ALUMNI RECOGNITION

## Honoring Our Alums

Congratulations to the 2024 Triton College Wall of Fame inductees! This honor is bestowed on individuals who have attended Triton and made a significant impact in their profession, community and beyond. Their achievements serve to inspire current students and strengthen the legacy of excellence that defines our college.

The honorees are:

- **Tim McKinney '97.**
- **Mayor Andre F. Harvey '94.**
- **Carrie Jo Little attended '85-'89.**
- **Michael McGrone, Sr. '93.**
- **Michael Rogers '95.**
- **Richard John Skelnik '72.**



From left to right – Mary-Rita Moore, Timothy McKinney, Andre J. Harvey, Carrie Jo Little, Michael McGrone, Sr., Michael Rogers and Richard Skelnik.

# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Summary of Fiscal Year 2024

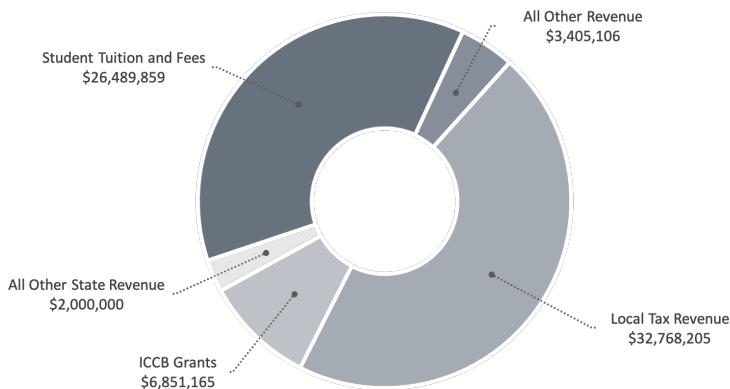
Triton College's budgeting model supports fiscal responsibility while remaining true to our vision of a community with equitable opportunity for growth and success. For fiscal year 2024, the college again received a clean, unmodified audit opinion from its external auditing firm. This confirms the accuracy, professional competence and transparency exhibited by Triton's financial reporting.

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

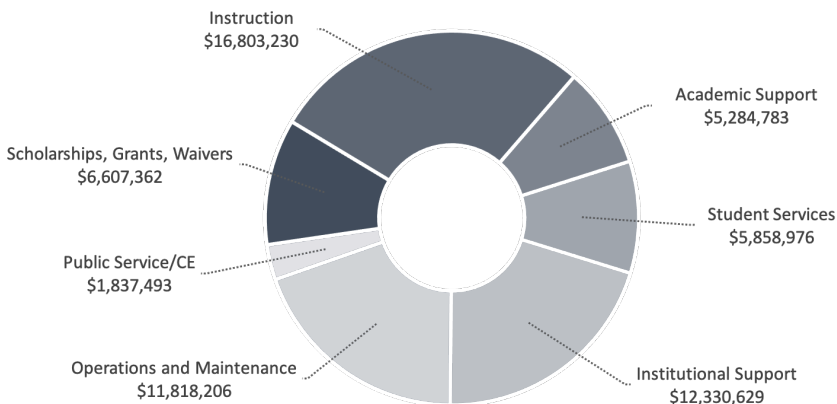
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>\$71,514,336</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>\$60,540,679</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$10,973,657</b>
<b>Transfers to Other Funds</b>	<b>(\$9,059,187)</b>
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$33,702,917</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$35,617,387</b>

FY24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report –  
Uniform Financial Statement #1

### REVENUES - \$71,514,336



### EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM - \$60,540,679





**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 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)*.

This was the 21st consecutive year Triton was recognized for its *ACFR*.







## 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

There's  
a place  
for you.



**Triton College**  
triton.edu

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(708) 456-0300

**HSI**  
HISPANIC-SERVING  
INSTITUTION

Triton College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.