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Triton College

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Triton College's Early College Program Proven Successful for Student James Dundovich



RIVER GROVE, Ill. – James “Jimmy” Dundovich of Franklin Park has always had a passion for automotives. Taking his drive for vehicles and motivation for success, Dundovich seized the opportunity to make the most of Triton College’s Early College Program.

Utilizing the Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment programs that fall under the Early College Program, Dundovich was able to take college courses and receive college credit.

“Taking college courses while I was a student at East Leyden High School allowed me to get a feel for the learning environment at Triton and college in general,” he explained.

As a high school student, Dundovich took Fuel Management Systems (AUT114) as a dual enrollment course, which he attended on Triton’s campus in the evenings. The **Dual Enrollment Program** allows high school students to earn college credit by taking approved courses by their high schools on Triton’s campus.

Dundovich also enrolled in Intro to Automotive Technology (AUT112) as a dual credit course on East Leyden's campus and was also treated as a Triton course. The **Dual Credit Program** enables high school students to take college classes at their high school by their high school instructors. These instructors are qualified to teach the college courses. If students pass the course successfully, they can receive college credit at their school.

Besides those two courses, Dundovich received college credit from taking two other courses – Carpentry: Rough Carpentry (COT106) and Total Fitness (PED106).

With those classes under his belt, Dundovich was farther ahead with college credits after he graduated from East Leyden in May 2023.

“After I graduated high school, I decided to attend Triton College to study automotive technology,” he explained. “I am so glad that I decided to take some of these college courses in high school, thanks to the Dual Degree/Dual Enrollment programs. Now, I am farther ahead.”

Now, as a Triton College student, Dundovich is taking several automotive courses. He feels they are interesting and informative, and appreciates that they are hands on for visual learners.

He also likes the camaraderie of the college and feels that Triton is convenient, close to home and easy to navigate. He plans to graduate from Triton in May 2025.

“All of the teachers and advisors are extremely helpful and kind to all of their students,” he said. “I feel really safe on campus.”

Besides taking automotive classes at Triton, Dundovich is also enrolled in an online training program with Mercedes Benz. His goals are to work in a dealership and eventually diagnose cars.

“Without the advantage I received from Triton's Early College Program, I wouldn't be as far along with reaching my goal,” he said.

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ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE

Triton College is a two-year college dedicated to helping members of the 25 Western Cook County communities in our district and beyond to achieve educational, professional and personal success. Located in River Grove, Ill., Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus, featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton also holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 14,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://www.triton.edu/>.