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Triton College

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Triton College Celebrates Student Program Completion of the Work Equity Initiative (WEI) Program

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Students and families gathered for Triton College’s Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Spring 2023 Competition Ceremony on Wednesday, May 24, in the Student Center Cafeteria. The celebration honored 82 students who completed the WEI Program, receiving certificates that will aid them in finding employment in exciting high-wage, in-demand careers.

“The values of the WEI Program align with the mission of Triton College,” said Will White, Triton’s executive director of WEI. “WEI helps individuals from underprivileged backgrounds find employment in exciting, well-earning careers.”

The ceremony began with remarks from Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore, followed by a reflection from WEI student Migerta Radhima, who received her phlebotomy certificate.

Radhima grew up in Albania and immigrated to the United States in 2015. After taking English courses at Triton College, she was a stay-at-home mom for five years. While tending to her children at home, she realized she missed working in the health care field, which was her career back in Albania. She was inspired by Triton’s WEI Program.

“I was determined to complete this certificate,” she said. “I am really excited to get back into the profession I loved. This program has forever changed my life.”

After Radhima’s remarks, the students were awarded their certificates by Dr. Susan Campos, Triton’s vice president of Academic Affairs. Students then had the opportunity to take a picture with President Moore. The celebration included dinner and refreshments.

“We are very proud of this tremendous accomplishment,” said Dr. Purva DeVol, Triton’s associate vice president of Institutional Advancement. “We are very happy for all of our students who worked so hard to receive their certificates.”

WEI is a grant program sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) designed to shorten the time it takes for students to enter and succeed in high-skilled, high-wage; “in-

demand” occupations. It has a focus on minority and low-income students. These careers have an average salary of \$20 per hour.

Triton currently has 14 programs for WEI, including Engineering Technology, Network Services Technician, Dialysis Technician and Ophthalmic Technician, among others.

The initiative, led by ICCB and Illinois Central College, focuses on improving workforce inclusivity by providing a living-wage job for adults residing in disproportionately impacted areas (low income, low employment, high crime).

In December 2021, ICCB announced their third year of WEI funding, awarding another \$18.7 million to 18 participating community colleges throughout Illinois.

The WEI Program is ending its fourth year and is preparing for its fifth year.

To view our YouTube informational video, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCD_Jx5UG-A.

For more information about the statewide initiative, visit <http://illinoiswei.org/>.

For local information on WEI at Triton College, visit <http://triton.edu/wei/>.

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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/>.