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FOR EVERY  
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Triton College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 18, 2023

## Triton College Celebrates National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

*Adult Education and Literacy Programs Provide Economic Opportunity in Illinois*



*Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore gave remarks at the Adult Education and Family Literacy Week kick-off ceremony on Monday, Sept. 18.*

River Grove, IL – National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, Sept. 18-23, 2023, underscores the continued demand for programs and services for adult students who need to improve basic skills in reading, writing and math, and obtain a State of Illinois High School Diploma. More than 36 million adults nationwide, including 1.2 million here in Illinois, lack basic literacy skills that limit their ability to advance in education and at work.

Triton College is one of more than 72 adult education providers offering programs funded through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) that improve and expand the nation's available pipeline of workers by assisting those who lack the educational requirements to achieve gainful employment in today's increasingly high-tech, global job market.

At Triton, we are honored to support approximately 1,500 students per year and help them to make progress toward meeting their academic and career goals.

Adult education provides a path from low-income jobs and limited opportunities to middle-class wages and increased family sustainability. Full-time workers with a high school diploma earn almost \$10,000 more annually than those without a diploma.

Triton College's Adult Education Department offers English as a Second Language (ESL), GED preparation, citizenship, digital literacy and transition to college courses, as well as dedicated advising and support services. Classes are offered in the morning and evening, in person and online, on campus and in the community. When students complete the ESL or GED Program, they are eligible for a number of scholarships to offset the cost of attending college.

"Adult education programs are critically important to tens of thousands of adults each year, especially those learning the English language for the first time. We are seeing an exponential increase in enrollment in AE programs after the global pandemic as Illinois continues to accept immigrants from all over the world seeking asylum in welcoming states like ours," said ICCB Executive Director Brian Durham.

"With partnerships across nearly 10,000 unique employers across the state, Illinois community colleges are the engines that drive industry in their local communities and across the state. So many good-paying jobs require education beyond high school, but don't necessarily require the time and cost of earning a four-year degree. Community colleges meet the education needs of Illinoisans at every life stage."

In recognition of National Adult Education and Literacy Week, Triton College hosted an opening ceremony on Monday, Sept. 18. In addition, District 504 Area Planning Council will host a luncheon at Triton College's Café 64. Other activities include a Cultural Showcase and several activities for adult education students and their families at the Cernan Earth and Space Center.

For more information about adult education programs and services at Triton College, visit [www.triton.edu/academics/adult-education](http://www.triton.edu/academics/adult-education). For information on adult education throughout Illinois, visit [https://www.iccb.org/adult\\_ed](https://www.iccb.org/adult_ed).

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