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**Triton College**

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## **Triton College Recognized by Achieving the Dream as a 2026 Leader College**



**RIVER GROVE, Ill.** – Triton College announced yesterday that it has been designated a 2026 Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national organization committed to advancing community colleges as accessible hubs of learning, credentialing and economic mobility. Triton College will hold its [Leader College](#) designation for a three-year term, underscoring the institution's continued commitment to student success.

"Earning Leader College status is a powerful affirmation of the education and work happening across our institution," said Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore. "This distinction reflects our commitment to ensuring every student has access to quality-education, strong support resources and opportunities to succeed. I am incredibly proud of our faculty, staff and others across our campus community whose dedication continues to move our institution forward."

President Moore added that this new national recognition, along with Triton College's recent eligibility for the [Aspen Prize](#), affirms that strong student outcomes are achievable when access and academic excellence come together.

According to ATD, Leader Colleges are recognized for meaningful progress in expanding access; improving early momentum metrics, such as retention; advancing relevant student success strategies with evidence of implementation and early results; and growing institutional capacity through culture and capacity-building efforts.

Triton College has been part of the ATD Network since 2009.

"The 2026 Leader Colleges demonstrate sustained commitment and measurable progress in advancing student success," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream.

“By using data to guide decisions and continuously strengthen their practices, these institutions are producing real gains in student outcomes, strengthening their practices, and deepening their impact in the communities they serve. Their leadership sets a powerful example for colleges across the ATD Network, reflecting the focus, discipline, and follow-through required to achieve lasting institutional change.”

Since its founding in 1964, Triton College has remained steadfast in its mission of educating and serving the community. Through its welcoming learning environment, affordable tuition and open admission policy, the institution has expanded the accessibility of post-secondary education for residents across its district.

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#### **About Achieving the Dream**

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a partner and champion of more than 300 community colleges across the country. Drawing on expert coaches, groundbreaking programs, and national peer network, the organization provides institutions with integrated, tailored support for every aspect of their work — from foundational capacities such as leadership, data, and equity to intentional strategies for supporting students holistically, building K–12 partnerships, and more. ATD calls this Whole College Transformation. Its vision is for every college to be a catalyst for equitable and economically vibrant communities. ATD knows that with the right partner and the right approach, colleges can drive access, completion rates, and employment outcomes — so that all students can access life-changing learning that propels them into community-changing careers. Follow ATD on [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). To learn more, visit the Achieving the Dream (ATD) website: [www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org).

#### **ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE:**

Triton College is a public institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Recently recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the Top 200 community colleges in the nation, Triton offers more than 130 degree and certificate programs that prepare students to pursue meaningful careers, transfer to four-year universities, and thrive in a global economy. Guided by our mission—*Valuing the individual, educating and serving the community*—Triton serves nearly 17,000 students annually on its 110-acre campus in River Grove, Illinois. Our dedicated faculty and staff provide high-quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities that empower students and strengthens the communities we serve. Triton College is accredited by

the Higher Learning Commission and a member of The Illinois Community College Board. Illinois is home to 45 colleges in 39 community college districts. Learn more at [triton.edu](http://triton.edu).