Award Presentations!

Collaboration by the Academic Deans and Facilities Department in the installation of a Photovoltaic System—solar panels at the Cernan Center—brought recognition from the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) and a Solar Energy System Award.

This installation will help the state of Illinois achieve its Renewable Portfolio Standard of having 25% of the state’s electricity supply coming from clean energy by 2025.

Ched Pagtakhan, full-time faculty in the HIA Department and Triton alumnus, was named 2014 Culinary Educator of the Year by the American Culinary Federation Windy City Professional Culinarians. Chef Ched is recognized as an active, expert culinary educator who demonstrates leadership, guiding students seeking a career in the culinary profession.

Strategic Plan  An update on the Strategic Plan was presented by Director of Planning & Accreditation Pamela Perry, highlighting actions that have been taken toward achieving our mission by increasing college readiness, improving completion, and closing the skills gap. You can access the complete Strategic Plan Semi-Annual Report here.

Spring Break!  This week is an opportunity for Triton employees to engage in professional development. President Moore reported that Administrators had a Retreat on Monday with a theme around Community. The Classified Association will have In-Service Wednesday, and Mid-Management Association on Friday. The President supports professional development at all levels of the college.
Chairman’s Report

- Chairman Stephens acknowledged college employees for the hard work they do servicing the needs of people that universities don’t even look at, such as those with a GPA of 1.2. He stated, “We have to serve the whole district and we are not going to fail those people. The key thing is good, life-supporting jobs that give people something better than bare survival. Let’s create that opportunity for the residents of our district.”
- Mr. Stephens discussed the state budget situation and the fact that 4-year schools took a budget hit while community colleges deservedly did not.
- The Village of Berkeley will have their Community Roundtable Discussion on Triton’s campus on May 4. This will be a great opportunity to have community leaders visit our campus.
- Everyone was reminded to exercise their right to vote on April 7.
- Trustee Johnson represented Triton at the ICCTA meeting in March, during which the group voted to continue investigating the right for community colleges to grant applied baccalaureate degrees in nursing and applied technologies. Also highlighted was the need for Boards to work with their college Foundations, and that community colleges are the key to building a new economic engine in Illinois.

Board Self-Evaluation  Mike Monaghan, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, joined the Board during their Board Retreat to discuss the Board’s self-evaluation. Mr. Monaghan will be working with Consultant Patricia Granados to develop an updated, effective assessment tool, with a goal of completing the evaluation this summer.

Campus Renewal  Highlighting the monthly campus renewal update was the East Campus Athletic Complex. Bids for this project will be received next Monday with contracts going to the April Board meeting and construction to start immediately after. Word will be going out to schools and groups in the district who have teams, to “build the buzz” about the Athletic Complex.

The Demo Kitchen & Bistro project is in tonight’s Board Book and projects including Bakery Expansion, Child Dev Center, and relocation of Engineering Technology and Architecture are in various stages of design.
Final Board Meeting for Trustee Stam

Trustee Glenn Stam was recognized for his 18 years of dedicated service to the Students, Community, and Board of Trustees. Accolades were spoken by Chairman Stephens and President Moore, and the audience honored Mr. Stam with a standing ovation. Mr. Stam is not running for re-election in April because of family circumstances. He will be greatly missed.

More Congrats and News Shared

- Kudos to the students from President Moore for their *Tea Time with Women of Triton College* event, held recently as a part of Women’s History Month.

- Adjunct Faculty Sean Flynn was recently promoted to the rank of Assistant Deputy Chief Paramedic with the Chicago Fire Department.

- Student Depression Screening held on March 10 was successful, with many students taking advantage of the opportunity and getting hints on how to cope with stress and life issues.

- Adjunct Faculty Bill Justiz and his Emergency Medical Technology Students raised over $2,200 in a St. Baldrick’s fundraiser for children’s cancer research.

Team members included: Students Christopher Atkins (military student), Kyle Bruzzini, Juan Cornejo, David Estrada, Joshua Goldman, Brandon Hart, Bryan Jirsa, David Navarez, Chris Nied, Andrew Passarella, and Shane Petrelli; Alumni Jackie Brooks and William Justiz; Military Norman Bright and Tony Brkowski

Bill Justiz sporting the Triton “T” and 50th Anniversary symbol before his St. Baldrick’s shave!