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Triton College’s School of Continuing Education recognized with statewide Innovation Award for collaborative project to promote education within facilities engineering technology industry

River Grove, Ill. – Triton College’s School of Continuing Education will be recognized with the 2015 Innovation Award by the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) for its collaborative work on a project that involved developing an associate degree that meets the educational needs of employees in the facilities engineering technology (FET) industry. The award will be presented to Triton’s School of Continuing Education on Nov. 19, 2015, at the ICCCA Fall Conference in Bloomington-Normal, Ill.

The ICCCA presents this award annually for extraordinary accomplishments among Illinois community colleges, recognizing the demonstrated innovation and success of projects.

Triton’s School of Continuing Education’s project, titled Workforce Development Project: Facilities Engineering Technology A.A.S. Degree, was developed over a five-year period from 2010-2015 in partnership with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 399. The goal of the project was to develop a professional degree tailored to the needs of the FET industry that leveraged shared resources to address national educational goals of closing the skills gap, reducing time to completion, and maximizing affordability.

The degree launched with Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) temporary approval in 2012 and received permanent approval on March 20, 2015. As of fall 2015, more than 750 students are actively enrolled each semester, making it the largest Career and Technical Education program at the college.
“Triton is always exploring new approaches to meet employer demand for skilled workers and develop our workforce,” said Paul Jensen, dean of the School of Continuing Education. “We have a great partner in the International Union of Operating Engineers, and we’re both thankful for the success and recognition this program is experiencing.”

This award comes on the heels of the School of Continuing Education also winning the 2015 Business/Industry Partnership Award from the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) for their collaborative success with the project.

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**ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE**

Triton College is one of the nation’s premier two-year institutions of higher education dedicated to student success. Located 14 miles from downtown Chicago, in River Grove, the school offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs at its 100-acre campus that features a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. About 11,000 students enroll at Triton each year to take advantage of Triton’s small, accessible classes, qualified faculty, affordability and financial assistance. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; member, North Central Association. [www.triton.edu](http://www.triton.edu)