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Triton College raises bar high with new Health and Sciences Facility

River Grove, Ill. – Triton College opened its doors to the first generation of students to experience the college’s newly renovated, state-of-the-art Health and Sciences Facility earlier this fall. The completion of the long-awaited building was celebrated with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 29, receiving a tremendous turnout of support from community members, public officials, health care professionals and alumni.

More than 200 attended the morning ceremony, filling the main floor lobby and student lounge area.

Triton College Board of Trustees Chairman Mark Stephens
applauded the hard work of Triton’s faculty and staff who made the vision possible, and acknowledged the purpose behind creating the state-of-the-art facility: Triton’s students.

“We have an obligation to you, our students, to provide you with a learning environment that is inspiring and prepares you for a successful career, and we will not usurp that obligation,” said Chairman Stephens. “And over the next few years, as we rehabilitate this campus, we will deliver a campus to you that is worthy of you to come here and study.”

Interim President Mary-Rita Moore added, “This space is designed to foster excellence in the health and sciences fields – now, today and in the future... True to our vision and mission of student success, this Health and Sciences Facility is an innovative, stimulating environment for learning. The health and sciences curricula with state-of-art labs and equipment... will provide strong preparation for students who transfer to a four-year institution or are ready for the competitive workforce.”

Ophthalmic Technology Program coordinator Deb Baker spoke on behalf of Triton’s health and sciences faculty.

“Our building is beautiful ... but it’s more than just a pretty face. This building represents hope and opportunity for our students,” she said. “The faculty are able to provide a 21st century, real-life experience to our students, and that is invaluable. Our students will walk across the stage at the Rosemont Theatre on Commencement Day and be able to step right into the workplace or transfer program. This is a wonderful time to be at Triton College.”

Renovation costs to Triton’s Health and Sciences Facility was $16 million, which was partially funded by a state capital grant that provided 75 percent of the funding. The college looks forward to expanding the capacity of student completion in its health and sciences fields, as well as explore new programs that will further contribute to the workplace development needs of the region.

Triton alum Ariana Marcucci of Elmwood Park graduated with her associate degree in nuclear medicine in 2014, before working in her current role at Rush Oak Park Hospital. She attended the event because she was curious to see what the new building looked like.

“I knew about these renovations, and I just had to come see it,” she said. “Everything here is awesome. It’s like the real deal. I feel like I’m in a hospital, not a college.”

Lauri Camp is a graduate of Triton’s Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program, as well as serves on Triton’s DMS advisory board. She helps facilitate clinicals for Triton’s students at her workplace, Central DuPage Hospital.

“This was the birthplace of my career and I wanted to support where I came from,” she said. “This building is an extraordinary opportunity for all medical fields because students can learn in-house what they’ll see and be working with at hospital sites.”

The college also held an evening open house to accommodate its night students and those who work during the day.
Both events included tours of classrooms with lab demonstrations by students and faculty of the various health and sciences programs at Triton: Ophthalmic Technology, Surgical Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Nuclear Medicine, Nursing, Basic Nursing Assistant, Anatomy and Physiology.

Examples of the some of the advanced technology students are working with includes:

**Anatomage Virtual Dissection Table** – a visualization system that engages students in anatomy education with digital 3-D, touch display of the interiors and exteriors of male and female bodies. These cutting-edge tables are being adopted by many of today’s leading medical schools and institutions.

**Nuclear medicine gamma camera (Siemens dual head e.cam SPECT System)** – a machine that is able to detect and make images from the very small amounts of ionizing radiation emitted from patients.

**Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)** – a non-invasive imaging test that uses light waves to take cross-section pictures of your retina, the light-sensitive tissue lining the back of the eye, helping diagnose retinol diseases and conditions.

**Simulators** – provides students with realistic hands-on ultrasound scanning experience without the need for live patients. Simulators include: Trans-vaginal, fetal, abdominal, SimMom, SimBaby and VitalSim Manikins simulators

For more information about Triton College and its program offerings, visit [www.triton.edu](http://www.triton.edu).

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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 close to 100 degree and certificate programs at its 100-acre campus that features a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. More than 12,000 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)

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