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**Triton College**

For immediate release: **April 26, 2024**

**Triton College's Alumni Association Selects Former Wrestler Richard John Skelnik  
as Alumni Wall of Fame Inductee**

RIVER GROVE – The Triton College Alumni Association has selected former athlete Richard John Skelnik as one of six Alumni Wall of Fame inductees. This honor is bestowed upon individuals who have made a significant impact in their profession, community and beyond.

Originally from Franklin Park, Illinois, Skelnik is retired and living in Thailand. Although 9,000 miles away from Triton College, he plans to attend the Alumni Wall of Fame Ceremony.

“This honor means that I made it,” said Skelnik. “All of my endeavors throughout my years at Triton and beyond have led me to this prestige.”

After graduating from East Leyden High School in 1969, Skelnik attended Triton because it gave him a convenient pathway to next steps in life.

“I also really wanted to attend Triton for their Wrestling Program,” he said. “In my opinion, the wrestling coach at the time, Coach Kraft, was the best wrestling coach in the country. He made men out of boys.”

At Triton, Skelnik became the wrestling team's Academic All-American and team captain for the 1971-1972 season. He was also named Most Improved Soccer Player. In addition to becoming a skilled athlete, Skelnik said Triton provided him with the tools needed to become a successful student.

“The caring teachers and coaches not only nurtured my academic and athletic abilities, but also instilled in me the skills to focus and study,” he said, adding that his experience at Triton empowered him to further his educational experience at Eastern Illinois University. At Eastern, Skelnik was an Academic All-American during the 1973-1974 season.

Following his educational pursuits, Skelnik became chairperson for Motorola and the General Dynamics Recruiting Council. For 12 years, Skelnik managed Motorola's hiring process, bringing more than 12,000 technical employees to the organization.

“Triton played a pivotal role in shaping my life,” said Skelnik, who will join five other individuals receiving the college's Alumni Wall of Fame distinction this year.

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## **ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE**

Triton College is an institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs designed for students to realize their career aspirations and effectively compete in a global economy. The college campus spans 110 acres in River Grove, Illinois, holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's exemplary faculty and staff work to provide high-quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 10,000 students each year. Triton College is a member of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at [triton.edu](http://triton.edu).