

As we head into summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on a productive and inspiring academic year at Triton College. With great pride, we came together as a campus community to celebrate the achievements of nearly 2,000 graduates at our Commencement Ceremony—each one representing a story of hard work and determination.

This year, several Triton students earned prestigious, national scholarships—a testament that speaks to our students' potential. Farshid Azarvash, for example, received the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship—an award given to just 90 community college students nationwide to finish their bachelor's degree. With support from Triton's Transfer Center, Farshid will be attending the University of Illinois Chicago this fall to pursue a career in computer science.

But equally inspiring to me are the many students who quietly persevere—balancing jobs, families and more—to achieve their educational and personal goals. Consider Zoraima Osegueda, one of 189 graduates of our Workforce Empowerment Initiative (WEI). Zoraima is now proudly employed as a Patient Care Technician at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood.

We also celebrate the accomplishments of our adult learners. Our Adult Education Department hosts an end-of-year celebration to honor adult learners who have gained the academic and employment skills to become college and career ready. And in June, students in our Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) program will be celebrated for completing personalized instruction in professionalism, social communication, job readiness and more.

These and other milestone events are more than ceremonies—they are reminders of the life-changing power of a community college education and our institution's commitment to valuing the individual.

As we transition into summer, our commitment to student success remains strong. Our focus on year-round learning continues to ensure students have access to flexible, continuous educational opportunities to help them stay on track and get the support they need to reach their goals.

Thanks to our faculty, staff, and others across our communities who support Triton students. Here's to a summer of continued growth and learning!

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