



In April, we join community colleges nationwide and others in the higher education sector to recognize and celebrate ‘the community college’ throughout the month. As *National Community College Month* is observed, we affirm commitment to our mission of valuing the individual, educating and serving the community. The important work of the college in fulfilling our mission continues, even in the midst of global uncertainty and significant change, by delivering accessible, high quality postsecondary education and workforce preparation for students and the broader community.

Triton College has always focused on making our communities stronger and that is especially important right now. The work we have been engaged in recently has been profoundly challenging and yet so very critical to serving our students well. As I reflect on this semester of extensive coordination and adaptation, I am pleased with the efforts of faculty & staff working together for an effective transition to an environment of remote, online learning. You are finding innovative ways to keep students moving forward so they can continue their studies and complete credentials to enter careers or transfer to a senior institution. The quality of education and service with care is evident and deeply appreciated in your work with students and collaboration with colleagues.

We continue to offer a wide range of services to our students remotely, including counseling, advising, and tutoring. The Office of Financial Aid is providing assistance and support to students who receive financial aid, understanding that a sudden job loss, changes within a family, or the transition to remote learning can be difficult. Student Affairs is revising policies to ensure students maintain access to financial resources now and for the future. In addition, we have provided more than 130 laptops for students’ use during remote learning in order to facilitate their ability to continue progress in their courses.

Some of you may be aware of the tangible support recently provided by the college to healthcare providers in our area. We have donated personal protective equipment (PPE), masks, and other supplies to local hospitals, first responders, and nursing homes. Please take a moment to read the attached article [here](#) from the *Oak Park Wednesday Journal* highlighting the contributions of Triton College as well as other area schools. Also, several Triton employees are investing their time and resources to make masks in order to augment supplies in our communities.

While the work before us continues, Triton is looking toward the institutional planning necessary in the very near future as the nation, our state and region begin to recover. We will need to carefully consider the emerging impact of the pandemic on our students and the college as well as the

potential shift in the educational needs of business & industry and the communities we serve. As in the past, I am confident that collectively we will embrace this time as opportunity to further advance education in the best way possible.

Many thanks to all of you! Stay well.

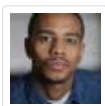
President Mary-Rita Moore



Local schools donate PPE to hospitals, first responders

OPRF, Triton and Dominican have given thousands of goggles, masks, other PPE

Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 7:10 PM



By **Michael Romain**
Staff Reporter

As medical workers and first responders face a critical shortage of much-needed personal protective equipment, local schools have stepped up to donate their own supplies to workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last month, Oak Park and River Forest High School officials — including teachers Paul Noble and Amy McGrail, and Associate

Superintendent Greg Johnson — scoured the building and found more than 20,000 disposable gloves and goggles from science labs to donate to Rush University Medical Center.

Noble was prompted to organize the effort after getting a call from Evie Kavinsky, the mother of one of his former students. Kavinsky's husband is a



Triton College officials donated thousands of pieces of PPE to area first responders and healthcare workers this week. | Courtesy Triton College/Facebook

cardiologist at Rush who was going to be caring for COVID-19 patients. The hospital was "short on protective eyewear to care for these patients," according to WBEZ, which picked the story up last month.

"These goggles are going to be at a premium in September and while we find new ones every year, we may be hard pressed to find them in September," Noble told WBEZ. "So [students] may not be doing any labs in the fall — labs that have any danger or toxicity of any kind they may not be able to do, but it seems obvious this was a more urgent need."

Area colleges have also chipped in, with Dominican University and Triton College recently donating personal protective equipment from their respective science departments.

Dominican University in River Forest collected PPE from its Borra College of Health Sciences, as well as the biology, chemistry, art and theater programs, said Jessica Mackinnon, the college's public information director.

Mackinnon said the school donated "approximately 50,000 gloves and 3,000 masks to area medical centers and first responders, including the River Forest Police Department, Loyola University Medical Center, Alivio Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital. We also sent some PPE to the St. Dominic Villa at the Mound, the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters motherhouse in Wisconsin, and have reserved some PPE for our own expected purposes."

Triton College donated roughly 9,000 gloves; 2,000 masks; 600 gowns; and hundreds of caps, shoe covers and biohazard bags to the fire and police departments of River Grove, Norwood Park and Leyden; Loyola University Medical Center; Gottlieb Memorial Hospital; Rush Oak Park Hospital; and Cantata Adult Life Services.

The supplies came from the college's Health Careers & Public Service programs, Engineering Technology, Chemistry & Biology, and the Center for

Health Professionals, officials said.

"Triton College continues to be a resource to our local community especially during challenging times. Around the world and across the region people are pulling together and deciding how to best support healthcare workers as they care for the sick. We are fortunate to be able to donate much needed resources to support our local community," said Paul Jensen, associate vice president of academic innovation and workforce education.

If you have any supplies you're interested in donating, email state officials at ppe.donations@illinois.gov. Include in the email the quantities you have of each item and your address to determine the best drop-off point.

Contact:

Email: michael@oakpark.com

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