



February is a month that may conjure up emotion with frequent references to the HEART. Listening to your heart, speaking from the heart, and hearing from the heart of others can inspire stronger connections with our colleagues and students. As a participant in *DREAM 2022*, keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Hernandez urged attendees to look within to foster a sense of belonging. “When we speak of a sense of belonging, it’s about action. One of the first steps in student success is for educators to look inward. This is where the hard work begins...” And this work continues among us.

Many of you are aware of Triton’s long-standing affiliation with Achieving the Dream (ATD) and our participation in their Annual Convening on student success, DREAM Conference. As *DREAM 2022* concluded last week, I was extremely pleased to hear the thoughtful reflections shared by the Triton team of faculty, mid-managers, and administrators attending the virtual conference. A conference debrief was held with our ATD coaches to discuss key takeaways, points of relevance to one’s role at Triton, and our hopes & dreams for the future.

One Triton faculty member began the discussion with comments on the good work already occurring at our college which corresponded to several initiatives highlighted in conference sessions. As our discussion proceeded, this observation was echoed by others, including myself. I appreciated the opportunity to recognize the many aspects of our daily work resulting in the successful implementation of structured, meaningful learning and comprehensive services designed to support students through their educational journey.

Along with being validated in our work, we were also challenged to become more effective and equitable in serving our diverse student population. The Triton team identified DREAM sessions that addressed strategies for expanded access, pathways for learning, K-12 partnerships, and community connection & engagement. Our dialogue focused on building and improving our institutional capacity for high-quality education that truly meets the needs of our students today.

We hope to continue our conversation for the purpose of sharing more about the insights gained, exchanging ideas, and exploring further ways to impact more fully the lives and learning experiences of our students and the communities we serve.

Our methodology and strategies have changed over the years and may need to change more often however, our commitment to students and facilitating their success never changes! Let’s continue to consider opportunities for developing greater impact as we move forward with the good work here at the college.

President Moore