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Triton College

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## **Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Receives Accolades from Public Feedback**

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – The Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Capt. Eugene "Gene" Cernan's Apollo 17 Mission has received positive feedback from the Triton district and beyond, attracting a wide variety of visitors.

The celebration began Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, and runs through Saturday, April 8, 2023. Admission to the exhibit is free.

The most exciting temporary exhibit is the lunar sample, also known as a moon rock, actually collected during Capt. Cernan's Apollo 17 NASA Mission in 1972. The moon rock is encased within a lucite pyramid and sits atop a lighted pedestal for public viewing.

"Many visitors remark how the "moon rock" looks like a charcoal briquette," noted Kris McCall, director of the Cernan Earth and Space Center. "They don't expect it to be almost black, but that's because this sample came from one of the dark areas on the lunar surface which was filled in by ancient lava flows."

According to McCall, visitors have traveled from near and far to see Triton's new exhibits, with field trips ranging from the city of Chicago to the far western suburbs.

Wayne Foster, one of the Cernan Center's Planetarium Educators, said a favorite exhibit among elementary students is the interactive game "Colonize Mars," which is a flat-touch-screen table and has become a permanent addition to the Cernan Earth and Space Center. Multiple users can work to develop a colony on Mars through several stages of objectives. Players can work individually or together to build their colony as quickly as possible.

The anniversary celebration has received positive feedback within the media, as well. *Space and Things* podcast host David Giles, of England, recently visited and praised the Cernan Center for promoting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Apollo 17 trip in his *What Makes a Good Space Museum* episode. Listeners were encouraged to visit the Cernan Center and experience the celebration.

James Kapsa, the host of the show *Sports Entertainment People and Places*, filmed an episode at the Cernan Center highlighting the many artifacts and exhibits the center has to offer.

In addition to the exhibits, visitors can travel *Forward! To the Moon* by viewing this special Planetarium's exciting production and discover plans to take new steps to the lunar surface in the coming years. Audiences are also invited to experience *Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon Cosmic Light Show* during March and April. The planetarium show schedule and ticket pricing are available at [triton.edu/cernan](http://triton.edu/cernan).

The Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 6:30-9:30 p.m. The Cernan Center is closed on Sundays.

For more information, contact [cernan@triton.edu](mailto:cernan@triton.edu) or visit [triton.edu/Cernan](http://triton.edu/Cernan).

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#### **Media Contact**

Maryann Pisano

Staff Writer

[maryannpisano@triton.edu](mailto:maryannpisano@triton.edu)

(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3202

#### **ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE**

Triton College is a two-year college dedicated to helping members of the 25 Western Cook County communities in our district and beyond to achieve educational, professional and personal success. Located in River Grove, Ill., Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus, featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton also holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 14,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at [www.triton.edu](http://www.triton.edu).