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Triton College

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## The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Capt. Cernan's Last Footprints on the Moon is Wednesday, Dec. 14

*Celebrate at Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center*

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Wednesday, Dec. 14 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Capt. Eugene “Gene” Cernan’s last footprints on the moon during the Apollo 17 Mission. Celebrate this milestone with Triton College’s Cernan Earth and Space Center’s many new activities geared to educate young students as well as adults.

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

The most exciting part of the exhibit is a lunar sample, commonly known as a moon rock, collected during NASA’s Apollo 17 Mission in 1972. The moon rock is encased within a lucite pyramid and sits atop a lighted pedestal.

To complement the lunar sample, adjacent exhibits examine lunar geology, the origin of the moon, equipment needed for living in space and Apollo in popular culture. The display of what astronauts ate and how they handled their necessities in space is on loan from the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kan.

A permanent addition to the exhibit is an interactive activity presented on a large, flat-touch-screen table. The table will run a program called “Colonize Mars” in which 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.

Now and in the coming months, the Cernan Center’s Planetarium is featuring several shows, including *Dawn of the Space Age*; *Forward! To the Moon*; *One World, One Sky*; *Big Bird’s Adventure*; *Rusty Rocket’s Last Blast*; as well as a holiday-themed laser show, *A Trans-Siberian Christmas*.

The Planetarium admission is \$4 for youth ages 2-17 and seniors 55+, and \$8 for adults.

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.

Eugene A. Cernan was born on March 14, 1934, and raised in Bellwood, Ill. (within Triton's district), and attended Proviso Township High School. He then attended Purdue University and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Before becoming an astronaut, he was a naval officer, naval aviator, electrical engineer, aeronautical engineer and fighter pilot. Capt. Cernan passed away on Jan. 17, 2017, in Houston, Texas.

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

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#### **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).