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Triton College

For immediate release: **Dec. 2, 2022**

**Triton College Dedicates George T. Jorndt Athletic Complex to
Honor Former Triton President**

Dedication Ceremony Brought Together Dr. Jorndt's Friends, Family and Colleagues

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College held a dedication ceremony for the unveiling of the George T. Jorndt Athletic Complex on Monday, Nov. 21. The dedication honored former Triton College President Dr. George T. Jorndt.

The event consisted of remarks and refreshments in the R Building (R-221), with the unveiling held outside.

Mark Stephens, Triton College's board chairman, described former President Jorndt as a "wonderful man," and "an honor and privilege to work with."

"It was my good fortune to call George Jorndt my friend," said Chairman Stephens. "In addition, he was my colleague who was instrumental in our efforts to transform Triton College. With George as our president, Triton regained its status as an outstanding educational institution focused on serving the residents of the Triton district. There isn't anyone who deserves this honor more than George Jorndt."

Dr. Jorndt's daughter Gretchen Reyes, described how her father's legacy will always live on through Triton College.

"I stand here today in front of so many people that my dad loved on a campus where he spent his best years," she said. "I know he wanted the best for the college and the students. I am so honored that his name, the stories and the passion that he had for Triton College will live on for years to come."

Mary-Rita Moore, current Triton College president, said she has "incredible memories with Dr. Jorndt," and "he always gave his personal touch with kindness and respect."

"For more than 30 years, Dr. Jorndt was a good steward of our Community College District 504, serving as an educator, leader, coach, cheerleader and mentor," said President Moore. "As a lifelong learner, no matter what the role or activity he was involved in, Dr. Jorndt always gave it his personal touch while performing his responsibilities with kindness and respect. It is fitting that our athletic complex bear his name."

Dr. Jorndt's friends and family in attendance expressed that he always wanted what was best for Triton.

"Triton meant the world to him," said Mary Jorndt, Dr. Jorndt's wife. "He absolutely loved it."

Jorey Reyes, Dr. Jorndt's granddaughter, said that Triton is a big part of their lives because of her late grandfather.

"It's amazing he's being recognized by an institution that we all really love," she said. "He was really important to us."

Garrick Abezetian, associate vice president of Athletics and Athletic Activities, and John Lambrecht, associate vice president of Operations and Maintenance, performed the unveiling of the athletic complex, located outside the R Building on Fifth Avenue, while surrounded by his friends, family and colleagues. The celebration ended with cake and refreshments.

Dr. Jorndt began working at Triton in August of 1969 as a full-time faculty member as well as the college's swimming and diving coach. In 1973, he became the director of Admissions and Records, and within one year, he raised enrollment from 12,500 students to over 16,000 students. After five years in the position, Triton's admission was over 23,000 students. He began serving as president in 1992 and retired in 2001.

Dr. Jorndt grew up on the north side of Chicago. He received his doctorate degree in public administration from University of Utah in 1972.

He is survived by his wife Mary; three children – Douglas Jorndt, Bryan Jorndt and Gretchen Reyes; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Jorndt passed away on June 27, 2021, surrounded by his family. His daughter Gretchen Reyes is currently a professor of business at Triton College.

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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.