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Triton College

For immediate release: **Nov. 21, 2022**

Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 17 Mission with a Moon Rock Display

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center will display a NASA moon rock collected during the Apollo 17 Mission in 1972. The celebration will begin Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, and run through Saturday, April 8, 2023. Admission to the exhibit is free.

The lunar sample, known as a moon rock, was collected during Gene Cernan's Apollo 17 mission, NASA's final Apollo mission to the moon. The moon rock is encased within a lucite pyramid and will sit atop a lighted pedestal, which has been provided to Triton by NASA. This display will be viewable for free during normal business hours, including Saturday evenings.

To complement the lunar sample, adjacent exhibits will examine lunar geology, the origin of the moon, equipment needed for living in space and Apollo in popular culture.

A permanent addition to the Cernan Center will be 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.

The Cernan Center's Planetarium will be featuring several shows, such as *Dawn of the Space Age*; *Forward! To the Moon*; *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure – Early Explorers*; *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.

For more information, contact cernan@triton.edu or visit 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.