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Triton College

For immediate release: **Jan. 19, 2022**

Triton College SEED Students Celebrate Program Completion with Graduation

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS) held a graduation for students who completed the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) Program on Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Performing Arts Center (R Building).

The graduation consisted of speeches and a video montage, with the graduates receiving a medallion and certificate at the end of the ceremony. All were invited to stay and enjoy refreshments and cake with the attendees.

"Don't put limits on yourself. Believe in yourself," said SEED instructor Gary Zimmerman during his graduation remarks. "Believe in your dreams and continue dreaming. When life gets tough, do not worry, because you are tough. You can get through it."

Students in the SEED Program have worked hard to reach this milestone, according to Deborah Kaczmarek, director of CAAS. The first 10 weeks of the program consisted of the students learning in the classroom. Students continued classroom instruction for the next 10 weeks and worked in on-campus jobs. Then, the students performed community work experiences. After completing all three parts of the program, the students were able to graduate.

Kaczmarek also noted that the graduates have registered for spring classes, so they will continue their education by working on a certificate or degree program at Triton College. One student was offered a part-time job on campus and another was offered a work-study position in Triton's Marketing Department.

"I am so proud of all of our graduates," said Kaczmarek. "Our students have grown up so much. They have learned professionalism at work, as well as how to dress, write a resume, put together a portfolio and answer any questions."

Tyler Rutter, a SEED graduate, worked at the village of Franklin Park while completing the program. He felt the SEED Program was a fun experience and he's now ready for the next chapter in his life.

"I want to be a therapist," he noted. "I want to get started on my career in psychology."

The SEED Program allows greater face-to-face instruction, according to Kaczmarek, and provides employment skills such as professionalism, financial management, social communication, coping skills, job expectations and resume writing. Students have classroom instructions with lectures and hands-on, practical activities. Kaczmarek feels the longer campus employment experience better prepares the students for their community employment.

“The SEED Program really helps students gain the skills needed to seek independent community employment through instruction,” said Kaczmarek. “We’re here to support our students’ goals by providing instruction, support and hands-on experiences.”

Those interested in enrolling in SEED should inquire about the program at their final high school Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meeting and fill out a form to apply.

CAAS provides tools for all Triton students, including the Otter software. Otter records lectures that provide a transcript to help students study.

For more information, please contact caas@triton.edu or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3917.

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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.