



Triton College

# CONNECT

A newsletter from your community college.

Fall 2024



Leading engineering and welding magazine featured Triton summer camp.

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## A Season of Achievement



President Mary-Rita Moore

Now at the midpoint of the fall semester, I want to share the many developments that have unfolded across the Triton College campus. The launch of several new academic programs has been a great success, attracting strong enrollment and positive feedback from both students and faculty. Ranging from associate degree programs in respiratory care to certifications in the fields of insurance licensing and human resources, these programs were carefully

designed to align with current industry demands and offer our students pathways to high-demand careers.

This semester is also especially meaningful to me as we bring our celebration of the college's 60-year anniversary to a close. Activities included the burial of a new time capsule on Sept. 30. Filled with items representing our present, this capsule will be opened on the college's 100-year anniversary in 2064, serving as a bridge connecting the past, present and future of our community.

In addition to providing high-quality education and celebrating our history, we have made strides in implementing our institution's strategic plan. This plan prioritizes student success, community engagement, and the development of programs to support both traditional and nontraditional learners. Our continued progress on these initiatives will help us build a stronger college for the future. As demonstrated over the years, we continue to be inspired and guided by an institutional vision that has led to lives immeasurably changed and communities well served.

Mark your calendar for spring registration which begins on Oct. 28. Whether you are a prospective, new or returning student, this is your opportunity to explore an array of courses that can help you achieve your academic and career goals. Let Triton College offer you the opportunity to enrich your educational and personal journey.

## Preserving Our Legacy



60-year anniversary capsule burial.

As part of Triton College's 60-year anniversary celebration, the campus community collected artifacts for a new time capsule that will remain sealed and buried until its recovery on the college's 100-year anniversary. The capsule was buried Sept. 30 at the center of west campus. Prior to the capsule burial, the artifacts were on display in the college's Library, offering a unique chance to view the memorabilia, documents and items that will represent the campus community to the future. Artifacts enclosed in the time capsule range from solar eclipse glasses to a "Troy the Trojan" mascot baseball card to copies of the college's newspaper, *Fifth Avenue Journal*. Also included was a pair of student-signed cardigan sweaters from the Triumph and Surge student organizations, a River Grove Fire Department medallion, a Triton College "bucket" hat and other items representing current trends.

## Empowering Students



Kailee Harper

The Trustee Honors Scholarship at Triton College provides high-achieving high school students with a GPA above 3.35 two years of free tuition, making higher education accessible and affordable. This opportunity helps students start their college journey without the burden of student debt.

"The Trustee Honors Scholarship is a great option for high school students to attend community college," said Kailee Harper, Brookfield, Illinois, 2024-2025 Triton College student trustee. "Being a recipient of the scholarship has allowed me to focus on my schoolwork and not worry about the financial burden of attending college. I work really hard for my grades and I'm fortunate to live in the Triton College school district."

In addition to offering federal and state financial aid programs, Triton College awarded nearly \$2 million in scholarships last year. Students are awarded scholarships for academic excellence, leadership, athletics, community service and enrollment in specific academic programs. Scholarships are offered by the Triton College Board of Trustees, Triton College Foundation or by outside individuals and/or organizations exclusively for Triton College students.

Apply today and save on college expenses. Visit [triton.edu](http://triton.edu).

## Two New Certificate Programs Launched to Elevate Student Success

Triton College's School of Continuing Education is offering two new certificate programs aimed at helping students achieve their career goals.

In partnership with Dohrn Insurance Training, Inc., Triton is offering an insurance licensing certification. This opportunity will equip students with the skills needed to sell various types of insurance, including accident and health, property and casualty upon completing the certification.

The course is offered in person and online, with ongoing open enrollment throughout the semester. Textbooks are provided in PDF form with supplemental study guides from Dohrn SimX, an online prelicensing simulating exam database.

"Dohrn Insurance is a hidden gem in the community," said Katie Rullo, associate dean of Continuing Education at Triton College. "Doug Dohrn is also a staple in the insurance industry. This is a great addition to the real estate package we have offered at the college."

Triton College is also offering a human resources certification, made possible through Illinois Community College Board's Noncredit Workforce Training Initiative. This certification prepares students for success in a fast-paced and growing field.

"According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Outlook, jobs within the human resources field are expected to increase 6% over the next several years, which is 3% faster than the average growth of all other occupations," said Dr. Bianca Sola-Perkins, dean of Triton's School of Continuing Education.

The first course, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Exam Prep, prepares students for the SHRM National Certification Exam. Upon completing the course, students receive a certificate of completion, enhancing their expertise and providing a competitive edge when applying for jobs.

The second course, the Human Resources Management Program course, explores essential principles and practices of human resources management.

Triton's School of Continuing Education is also offering a holiday cooking class on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 5-9:30 p.m. Warm up the holidays by learning how to create a delicious meal with seasonal favorites, such as roasted chicken, potatoes and a veggie casserole.

Learn more at [triton.edu/ce](http://triton.edu/ce).

## Attracting Students to the Geosciences



Dr. Sheldon Turner spent 10 days at sea conducting oceanic research with the STEMSEAS Program.

Chair of Triton College's Science Department, Dr. Sheldon Turner, recently had an article published in a national science magazine. The article, *The Benefits of Empowering Community College Geoscience Faculty*, highlights Dr. Turner's experience in the STEAMSEAS Program. As part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Student Experiences Abroad Ships (STEAMSEAS) Dr. Turner, along with 13 other U.S. faculty members from two-year colleges, embarked on a 10-day expedition between Seattle and Honolulu to not only conduct research at sea, but to learn how to recruit future student participants and faculty mentors to the program. The article was published in *Eos*, a science magazine of advancing earth and space sciences (AGU).

## Triton Alum Makes Great Entrance into the Workforce



Jack Gavin

Triton College graduate Jack Gavin from Park Ridge, Illinois, made a remarkable entrance into the workforce. Equipped with an Associate in Applied Science (construction technology degree) from Triton, Gavin quickly advanced to the role of assistant superintendent at Clune Construction in Chicago, where he is currently managing a large data center fit-out project.

"Triton College gave me the tools to be where I am today," said Gavin.

At Triton, Gavin gained a comprehensive understanding of industry standards in construction

management. The college's resources and hands-on classroom experiences provided him with real-world scenarios that prepared him for his new role.

"Jack is a perfect example of a student who came to Triton and benefited from everything that Triton has to offer – from state-of-the-art facilities and resources to networking opportunities," said Frances Figg, chair of Triton's Architecture and Construction Technology departments. "Jack entered the workforce with employable skills."

Looking to the future, Gavin encourages those interested in pursuing a career in construction management to consider Triton College.

Eager to remain connected to Triton, Gavin joined the college's Architecture and Construction Technology Advisory Committee.

"It's great to have a recent student on our committee," said Figg. "We look forward to his continued involvement with the college on an advisory level."

Triton College offers an Associate in Applied Science with degrees in construction technology and architecture, along with a series of certificates in the areas of architecture technology, design, building information modeling (BIM), carpentry, construction management, plumbing and more.

Visit [triton.edu](http://triton.edu) to learn more.

## Interested in Learning to Play an Instrument?

Triton College's Music Department is offering private music lessons for students and community members of all ages and skill levels. Taught by Triton's master music faculty, these lessons provide a unique opportunity to learn from professionals in a variety of instruments and styles.

"Students interested in learning how to play an instrument do not need to travel to downtown Chicago to learn from some of the city's best musicians," said Salvatore Siriano, Triton's lead instructor of music and director of bands. "Our faculty are talented, skilled and thriving musicians."

Students can develop their skills on a variety of instruments, as well as voice, through Triton's private lesson programs. Classes are scheduled according to student availability with each lesson lasting one hour per week.

Students who take lessons have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of concerts held at the college throughout the year, including jazz, choral, and concert band performances.

## Generous Donations Support Troy Mart



Troy Mart student worker Eva Leach.

Troy Mart, the college's food pantry, recently launched a hot meal delivery service for students called Grab & Go Gourmet. Available through a generous donation from Kenysha Mason, owner of Sinfully Delicious, meals are available to students daily from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. "This service provides our students with a hot, fresh meal," said Julia Willis, dean of Students. "We're grateful to Sinfully Delicious for their support."

This contribution follows a \$10,000 donation from the Educational Credit Management Corporation and a \$2,500 donation from Sysco Chicago. Both gifts will help expand Troy Mart's services.

Since opening in 2023, Troy Mart has served more than 350 students with food and essential items, thanks to partnerships that allow the college to foster a supportive environment where students can thrive academically.

## Fall Family Fun Fest Fosters Camaraderie

Autumn enjoyment and entertainment greeted guests at Triton College's 16th Annual Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Botanical Gardens.

Children and their families enjoyed a variety of activities, including pumpkin decorating, mask making, finger painting and more. Kids also explored a hay bale maze and wandered through Triton's "pumpkin patch."

"My husband and I take our kids to the Fall Family Fun Fest every year. There's so much to do," said River Grove resident Liz Jarosz. "We love to pick out a pumpkin."

Triton College's Fire Science and EMT Program provided a fire hose exhibit for kids to extinguish a pretend fire, learn facts about fire safety and more.

The Cook County Sheriff's Office offered tours of their command communications van and taught about safety.

"I love the Fall Family Fun Fest. It's a great community event," said River Grove Mayor David B. Guerin. "My kids love picking out a pumpkin each year. The village of River Grove appreciates this wonderful partnership with Triton College."



Participants at the Fall Family Fun Fest discovered crafts, games and more.

## Scholars Program Success



Maddy Norton

For alum Maddy Norton, the Triton College Scholars Program provided her with a high-quality education that not only challenged her academically, but prepared her to transfer to a four-year elite institution in Washington, D.C.

"Triton's resources and the support that I received from professors, (empowered) me to feel confident in furthering my educational endeavors," said Norton.

The same is true for Triton alum Ana Zulkoski. "There are quality professors at Triton and that made all the difference in my educational experience. The professors I had were so great, and they not only got to know me as a person, but who I am as a student, what works best for me and helping me along my way," she said.

Triton's Scholars Program is a two-year program designed for academically talented students in District 504. Director of the program, Dr. Michael Flaherty, has led the Scholars Program for nearly 20 years.

"The reason I keep directing the program is because of the continued student successes. It is so rewarding," said Dr. Flaherty. "All students in the program want to succeed and have strong goals."

Information about Triton's Scholars Program is available at [triton.edu/scholars-program](http://triton.edu/scholars-program).

## Teenagers Discover the Art of Welding

*The Fabricator*, a leading national engineering and welding magazine, featured Triton College camp GLoW (Girls Learning to Weld) in an article about summer welding camps.

"The article, titled *A Summer Vacation Spent Welding*, touched on how welding summer camps have the ability to attract both teenagers and adults," said Dana Nestruck, Triton instructor, who is quoted in the article. "Our camp allows students to be visionaries and try something new."

Designed for 12-16-year-olds, GLoW includes basic welding, field trips and visits from skilled trades professionals. The camp is supported by a grant from Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs (NBT), the foundation of the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association.

"I love how GLoW mainly centers around women," said camp participant Rory Colchamiro in the article. "It's great to see that there's things like this available to help empower women to start doing things they like."



A leading national engineering and welding magazine featured Triton's summer camp in its publication.



FOR EVERY STUDENT  
FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

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Triton College

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Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit degree-granting colleges and universities.



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**Whether you're starting or restarting college, there's a place for you this spring!**

Here's why you should register at Triton College this spring — We offer more than 120 degree and certificate programs that feature practical courses and flexible scheduling options. Our award-winning faculty combine distinguished academic credentials with valuable real-world experience. Tuition is affordable, and financial assistance and scholarships are available. All this and we're right in your neighborhood.

**Spring registration begins Oct. 28!**

To get the latest spring course listings, scan the QR code on the left.

To learn more about spring registration scan the QR code on the left.



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