

Uncertainty to Success: Triton College's Impact on Mayor Jeff Sherwin and Community

Triton College's mission—*valuing the individual, educating and serving the community*—is about more than providing a high-quality education; it supports each student's full journey. Triton is dedicated to equipping students with the tools to build stronger communities and brighter futures. By offering affordability, accessibility and options, community colleges like Triton are uniquely positioned to serve those who may be uncertain about their next steps.

Northlake Mayor Jeff Sherwin is one of many community college success stories. An attorney and Northlake's acting mayor since 1997, Mayor Sherwin credits Triton with his many achievements.

After graduating from West Leyden High School in 1971, Mayor Sherwin worked part-time at Walgreens for \$1.75 an hour. Seeking an affordable, close-to-home education, he enrolled at Triton.

Unsure about his career path, Mayor Sherwin took classes with business law instructor and Oak Park attorney Ken Jakus, whose guidance inspired him to pursue a law degree.

"Everyone (at Triton) had a similar story," he said. "Community college goes beyond academics – it allows students to be career oriented, too."

Beyond academics, Triton also introduced the mayor to classmates from Melrose Park to Maywood, expanding his perspective and sparking his interest in public service.

After graduating from Triton, he went to Northeastern University, later earning his law degree from Chicago-Kent School of Law. Today, he continues to credit Triton for instilling in him core values, such as how to respect others and the importance of community.

Triton's community-based mission is still its focus. By providing degree and certificate programs in high-demand careers, Triton prepares students for success while also supporting local economies.

In Northlake, for example, Triton-trained graduates are contributing to the city's growing logistics businesses, filling internships and launching careers that strengthen the community.

"Triton has so many degree and certificate programs that graduates become very valuable," said Mayor Sherwin.

Like Mayor Sherwin, many Triton College alumni demonstrate how a Triton College education can change people's lives, offering affordability, opportunity and a high value education that leads to a promising future.