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Community College Allows Students to Thrive

Triton College Sends Three Student Delegates to Springfield for Model Illinois Government

Triton student Juan Cervantes received the Outstanding Lobbyist Award

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – The Triton College Model Illinois Government (MIG) competed in a government simulation in Springfield, IL between March 3-6, 2022. The three student delegates who attended were Simon Koziol, Johnathon Witkowski and Juan Cervantes. “Our delegates all did an exceptional job representing Triton College,” economics instructor George Lam said. “The experience allowed them to better understand our state government system, network with other delegates and think deeper about their career goals.”

According to the [Triton College Student Life webpage](#), MIG is “an intercollegiate simulation of the different branches of government in the state of Illinois.” Delegates began preparing for the 44th annual simulation during the fall semester.

While meeting some of the approximately 100 other student delegates from 10 colleges across Illinois, they also heard from special guests, including Illinois Supreme Court Justice David Overstreet, who addressed delegates on March 4. “I learned that the path to achieving a position like Illinois Supreme Court Justice is long and arduous, but extremely rewarding,” Koziol said. “This is especially true when your justice position is an elected one.”

In addition to learning about the work required to campaign and be nominated for such as position, “I enjoyed listening to Justice Overstreet’s views on certain issues to do with law and the Constitution, as well as his perception on other topics and cases he has experienced,” Koziol said.

Triton’s delegates addressed bills on topics such as voter identification and abortion. Koziol was a Democrat House Representative, Witkowski was a Republican House Representative and Cervantes was a lobbyist. “The most interesting bill I argued for was about service animal abuse,” Koziol said. “I had to

vote against my party constituency and help to bring others from my aisle to vote in a bipartisan manner.”

On March 6, Cervantes received The Robert Kent Award for Outstanding Lobbyist. Cervantes is a first-year Triton College student who is studying economics.

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Media Contacts

Maryann Pisano

Staff Writer

maryannpisano@triton.edu

(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3062

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, IL, Triton offers more than 110 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus,

featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton holds classes at several satellite locations as well and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 12,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at www.triton.edu.