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For immediate release: **March 29, 2022**

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**Triton College Instructor Seth McClellan's Film Wins Best Documentary at
Socially Relevant Film Festival in New York City**

Others Before Self Documentary Profiles Children at Himalayan School

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's Mass Communications instructor Seth McClellan won best documentary at the Socially Relevant Film Festival in New York City on Sunday, March 20.

Community college instructors like McClellan prepare students to tap into their education as well as their creativity, through film.

The documentary entitled *Others Before Self* is a profile on the Himalayan school Tibetan Children Village, which was founded by the Dalai Lama.

The hour-long documentary is a portrait highlighting the many different voices of children who attend the school.

“The children live in group homes and they have a lot of responsibilities,” McClellan explained. “They cook, clean and study together. They have a lot of communal responsibilities. They put others before themselves.”

McClellan explained that Tibet was invaded by China in 1949 and in 1959 China took over Tibet. Those living in Tibet became refugees and left for the Himalayas. The Dalai Lama started the school for Tibetan children to help them to learn and grow.

“The documentary goes through the history of the school and the lessons that the school teaches,” McClellan said. “These children are telling us their hopes and dreams.”

The film was shot in Dharamsala in northern India in the summer of 2019. Luckily for McClellan, his filming schedule was not interrupted by the pandemic.

McClellan’s first film, *Little Wound’s Warriors* is about young people on a Native reservation in South Dakota. He said *Others Before Self* is something of a follow-up since it also profiles young people.

For the future, McClellan plans on participating in more film festivals and is having a screening of *Others Before Self* in Chicago in June. He explained that he will eventually take the film to India to show the injustices to the Tibetan people, but also showcase the beautiful and positive side of their lives.

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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, 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.