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Triton College

For immediate release: **April 27, 2023**



Triton College Student Derricka Parks is “Living Her Dream” Graduating from Triton’s Nursing Program

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Derricka D. Parks of Forest Park is proud to be graduating from Triton College’s nursing program in May 2023. This ambition is one that has taken her several years to achieve. After overcoming many obstacles, Parks finally feels like she is on the verge of attaining her goal.

Growing up in Forest Park, Parks always knew she wanted to pursue a career in nursing. Her mother worked in the healthcare field and her grandmother is a retired nurse. After Parks graduated from Proviso East High School in 2004, she decided to attend Triton to obtain her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Certificate.

With a CNA certificate under her belt, Parks knew she wanted to continue her education and become a Registered Nurse (RN). However, her life took an unexpected turn. “In 2009, I stopped my education,” she explained. “My daughter was born in 2007, and she was only 2 years old. I wasn’t able to continue and reach my goal of becoming an RN.”

With her CNA certificate, Parks has worked at Hinsdale Hospital in hospice care for several years.

In 2015, Parks' life took another turn. Her fiancé passed away, which motivated her to finish her associate degree.

"I realized that I needed to pursue this dream. My daughter was a little older so it was beneficial for me to continue my education so we could have a better life. In 2017, I returned to Triton College to finish my degree."

Parks said that it feels "surreal" to finally graduate from Triton and become an RN.

After Triton, Parks will be attending Benedictine University to complete her bachelor's degree. She's grateful for the partnership that Triton has with the university.

"I feel like I've gone from the bottom to the top," she said. "I want to thank my daughters, mom, grandma and newly engaged fiancé for all their support in helping me reach my goal."

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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 <http://www.triton.edu/>