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Triton College

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Triton College Honors Students in the Scholars Program *Five Students Recognized at Board Meeting*



Pictured, left to right – Dr. Michael Flaherty, Miguel Sahagun, Claire Levis, Abyssinia Jurowski, Itzel Saenz, Ella Matarazzo, Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and Diane Viverito, vice chairwoman of the Triton College Board of Trustees.

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College Scholars Program students Miguel Sahagun, Itzel Saenz, Ella Matarazzo, Abyssinia Jurowski and Claire Levis were recognized for their academic achievements at the May 16 Triton College Board of Trustees meeting.

“This group of students definitely has talent, but it goes beyond that,” said Dr. Michael Flaherty, the Scholars Program director. “These students know where they want to go academically and

where they want to go with their future careers. They are inspired and make the most out of the time that they have.”

Abyssinia Jurkowski of Oak Park was homeschooled and moved from Virginia to Illinois to help her grandmother during the pandemic. For the fall, she is attending Fisk University in Nashville and is a pre-medicine major. Jurkowski wants to become an eye doctor because she feels the need to help people.

“Dr. Flaherty has been very supportive,” Jurkowski said.

Miguel Sahagun of Melrose Park attended Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy and is going to Elmhurst University next school year to study public health. Sahagun is a recipient of the Triton Scholars Program-Elmhurst University Full-Ride Scholarship. This scholarship is worth approximately \$80,000.

“I loved everything about Triton,” Sahagun said. “I loved the people, the close-knit relationships and the beautiful campus. I have an endless amount of gratitude for receiving this scholarship to Elmhurst University.”

Westchester resident Ella Matarazzo, who attended Oak Park and River Forest High School, said she will be attending University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and is majoring in urban studies.

“I wasn’t sure if I wanted to go away to college during the pandemic,” she explained. “I liked Triton’s smaller class sizes and all of my professors.”

Itzel Saenz of Melrose Park also attended Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy and said she too will be attending UIC next school year. She will major in mechanical engineering.

“I’ve always been really good at math and science,” she explained. “I decided to pursue a career that both interests me and is natural for me.”

Oak Park resident Claire Levis attended Oak Park and River Forest High School. Levis hopes to attend Lewis University and plans on studying engineering.

“I really wanted to attend a community college,” Levis said. “Triton was a great way to complete my general education courses.”

Dr. Flaherty said each of these students have shown resilience and drive in their academic achievements.

“Whatever academic or career path these students pursue, they’re going to be great,” he said.

The Triton College Scholars Program is a two-year program for academically talented students. The students selected for the program plan on transferring to a competitive four-year college or university after Triton.

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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/>.