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## Triton College Honors Veterans this November

Triton College Acknowledges Their Patriotism and Sacrifice

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College is honoring Triton faculty and staff who served as United States veterans this November for their bravery and heroism.

Tracy Jennings of Westchester, Triton College's Board of Trustees secretary, served in the U.S. Army for three years (E-4).

Jennings was born on the South Side of Chicago in Morgan Park and attended Morgan Park High School. After graduating high school in 1986, he felt a civic duty to join the United States Army.

"It was one of the best decisions I've ever made," he said.

His permanent duty station was the  $101^{st}$  Airborne Division Fort in Campbell, Ky. He was assigned to the  $5^{th}$  Battalion of the  $101^{st}$  Aviation Unit, where he was the petroleum supply specialist. Jennings served three years active duty from 1986-1989.

While on active duty, the secretary of the Army awarded Jennings the Army Achievement Medal. This honor was given to him for his ability to motivate and lead within the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment of the United States Army.

After the Army, Jennings decided to enter the corporate arena, working for two Fortune 500 companies in the telecommunications industry. After working in corporate America, he took a leap of faith and started his own real estate appraisal company.

As a public servant, Jennings has worked for the state of Illinois as a public service administrator (PSA) from 2013-2018. He held the title of PSA in three state agencies: The Department of Human Services, The Department of Children and Family Services Legal Division and The Department of Employment Security. He's also a trustee for the village of Westchester.

In October 2021, Jennings returned to Illinois as a senior public service administrator for the DCFS Legal Division.

Jennings is also a pastor. In 2003, he became the founding pastor of Total Christian Life Ministry, a non-denominational, Christian faith-based church in Joliet.

As for Triton College, Jennings was elected to the Board of Trustees in April 2021 and has been the board secretary since April 2022. He noted that everyone in his family has taken classes at Triton College and feels it is a great place to learn.

"It's just a joy to be on the college board," he said.

Jennings has been married to his wife Cynthia (a published author) for 29 years. He has two adult children, Reggie and Traci. Reggie is a financial analyst and licensed realtor and Traci is an attorney and a scrum master.

Jennings is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and DeVry University.

For more information, visit triton.edu/hero.

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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 <a href="http://www.triton.edu/">http://www.triton.edu/</a>.