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Triton College Celebrates Excellence: Five Scholars Program Students Honored



(From left to right) Diane Viverito, Vice Chair, Triton College Board of Trustees; Dr. Michael Flaherty, director of Triton's Scholars Program; Jana Milicevic; Alexandra Mercado; Emily Urueta-Hernandez; Eliska Horakova; Lavonia Black; Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College Scholars Program students Lavonia Black, Eliska Horakova, Alexandra Mercado, Jana Milicevic and Emily Urueta-Hernandez were recognized for their academic achievements during the Triton College Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, May 20.

“This group accomplished so much,” said Dr. Michael Flaherty, director of Triton’s Scholars Program. “Besides having a full class load, these students participated in extracurricular activities and volunteer work and will transfer to amazing four-year universities. They’re such an impressive group.”

Lavonia Black of Maywood said the program’s resources helped her prepare for her future, adding that Dr. Flaherty was always kind and understanding.

“Triton is a great steppingstone,” said Black, who is waiting admission to Howard University, where she plans to study political science. Her long-term goal is to become an attorney.

Eliska Horakova of Norridge will attend University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) this fall to study nursing. Horakova received a full-ride scholarship for her first semester.

“I liked that the Scholars Program offered a lot of humanities classes,” said Horakova. “I loved the Shakespearean classes. There’s so much value in community colleges.”

North Riverside resident Alexandra Mercado will attend Loyola University Chicago to study environmental science. Mercado received a \$30,000 scholarship from Loyola.

“I liked the wide range of classes at Triton, especially the liberal arts classes,” said Mercado. “There were so many opportunities for us.”

Jana Milicevic of Riverside also plans to attend Loyola University Chicago, where she will study healthcare administration. Like Mercado, Milicevic received a \$30,000 scholarship.

“Dr. Flaherty was so helpful,” she said. “Triton eases the financial burden that college puts on students. We have a strong community and social network that allows us to branch out after graduation.”

Franklin Park resident Emily Urueta-Hernandez was drawn to the Scholars Program for its focus on service learning, particularly volunteering throughout the Chicago area. Urueta-Hernandez received a \$20,000 scholarship from University of Illinois Champaign (U of I) but is currently awaiting a decision from Georgetown University.

“I will miss Triton because I was so involved on campus, including Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Model Illinois Government (MIG),” said Urueta-Hernandez.

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

“I appreciate the support of the Board and President Moore for giving this program public recognition,” he said.

The Triton College Scholars Program is a two-year program for academically talented students. Students selected for the program generally transfer to a four-year college or university following Triton.

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ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE

Triton College is an institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs designed for students to realize their career aspirations and effectively compete in a global economy. The college campus spans 110 acres in River Grove, Illinois, holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's exemplary faculty and staff work to provide high-quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 10,000 students each year. Triton College is a member of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at triton.edu/.