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Triton College

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Triton College EMT Program Prepares Students for Life-Saving Careers in 16 Weeks



Veteran firefighter Vince Pesavento heads Triton College's Emergency Medical Technology Program, preparing students for high stakes emergency care in just 16 weeks.

RIVER GROVE, Ill. — After a celebrated career spanning roughly 25 years as a firefighter-paramedic for the Village of Hoffman Estates, Vince Pesavento now leads Triton College's Emergency Medical Technology program, guiding others toward careers in saving lives.

Reflecting on his work as a first responder, Pesavento said he couldn't imagine doing anything else, calling it a truly rewarding experience.

“It allows you to give back to your community by helping people who need you at the worst times in their lives,” he said. “You’re helping them feel better and get comfortable so they can continue living their life and be with their loved ones.”

Triton’s EMT program equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become practicing EMTs after just 16 weeks. EMTs provide emergency patient care and serve as the link between the scene of an incident and the emergency health care system.

It’s a job that demands adaptability and requires someone prepared to answer the call for help at a moment’s notice.

“As soon as that alarm goes off, you don’t know what you’re responding to,” he said. “It could be a medical call, a trauma call or the same person you’ve seen three times in the last month. It’s different every day.

“If you like a career that’s very dynamic and never the same, this is great for you.”

At Triton College, EMT students study under the tutelage of Pesavento and a team of experienced paramedics working throughout the greater Chicago area.

“These are instructors who are out in the field every week, and they bring real-life experiences to the classroom for discussion. This helps students think critically about what they might encounter and how they might respond to different situations,” Pesavento said.

Blending classroom instruction with hands-on learning, students acquire all the fundamentals of patient care, such as lifting and transporting patients, implementing airway procedures and conducting patient assessments.

Pesavento added that the program offers multiple class sections throughout the day to accommodate a variety of schedules, including those of students with professional or family obligations.

Upon successful completion of the program, students are prepared to pursue professional licensure or certification in Illinois and join a growing industry. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of EMTs and paramedics is projected to grow 5 percent from 2024 to 2034. This is faster than the average for all occupations. About 19,000 openings for EMTs and paramedics are projected each year, on average, over the decade.

Whether you're interested in a career in the fire service, treating patients in an emergency room or working in an ambulance setting, Triton’s EMT certificate is the starting point. Enroll now and start saving lives tomorrow.

For more information on Triton College’s Emergency Medical Technology certificate, visit triton.edu.

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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.