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Triton College School of Business Launches Paralegal Studies Certificate
Program Prepares Students for Entry-Level Legal Positions

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College School of Business has recently launched a Paralegal Certificate Program. Students who participate in the cohort will become certified to work a variety of legal (non-attorney) positions in a law firm, corporation or government agency.

“There is definitely a need for a paralegal certificate program,” said Triton College Business Professor Dr. William Griffin. “Our society will definitely need paralegals in the future.”

According to Dr. Griffin, a paralegal is the “right hand” to an attorney or legal department. Paralegals research a case, and prep and brief the attorney. They also collect depositions.

“A paralegal is very talented at paying attention to detail and who can help an attorney or legal department defend a case or present a case to a court,” said Dr. Griffin.

Triton’s Paralegal Certificate Program will be 31 credit hours (two semesters) with students taking classes such as Civil Litigation, Contract Law, Legal Ethics and Law Office Organization. The program will be limited to 15 students each semester.

A cohort is a group of students working together in the same program, going through the same academic curriculum while finishing their degree together.

Dr. Griffin said students must already have an associate degree or higher to enter the cohort, since no general education courses will be offered. Students who have not yet begun college or a career program pathway with an associate degree can be worked out.

“This is strictly a certificate program,” he said. “This community college model is designed to achieve a certificate in order to help students get into the workforce right away.”

According to Triton’s Research and Institutional Effectiveness Department, according to the Chicago Cook County Local Workforce the Illinois Department Employment Security, the need for paralegals is projected at a 14.6 percent increase. Chicago ranks second in the nation for job postings in the area of legal/paralegal profession. The average salary of a paralegal is \$58,000.

Dr. Griffin said Triton will continually have open houses for those who are interested in the certificate.

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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, IL, Triton offers more than 110 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus, featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton holds classes at several satellite locations as well and offers online learning opportunities. Triton’s dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and

affordable educational opportunities to more than 12,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at www.triton.edu.