



Triton College

# e-CONNECT

An e-newsletter from your community college

Fall 2022



Renewable Energy Technology Degree Program  
Story inside.

## Triton College's Fall Family Fun Fest Welcomed Family and Friends

Beautiful, fall weather greeted over 1,000 guests at Triton College's annual Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday, Oct. 1. Located in Triton's Botanical Gardens (east campus), the fest was back in-person for the first time in three years.

Children and families were invited to decorate pumpkins, make masks, color and create necklaces, fingerpaint, build with Lincoln Logs, learn about electronic cars, paint pots and interact with first responders. Free pumpkins and a corn hay bale maze added to the autumn ambiance.

The Culinary Department sold out of delicious brick-oven pizzas and homemade "fall-tastic" pies. They also sold hot apple cider and hot coffee.

Triton clubs SURGE and TRIUMPH were in attendance to help pass out pumpkins and lemonade to families. SURGE member Nailah Baker said she wanted to participate in the Fall Fest because she likes seeing kids from the community excited about the fall season and the free pumpkins, stating, "Everyone seems to be having a good time."

Dr. Purva DeVol, Triton's assistant vice president of Institutional Initiatives, Planning and Accreditation, and chairperson of this year's Fall Family Fun Fest Committee, felt that the fest was a huge success. She noted that it was great to see the community come to campus for an in-person event.

"We love it when families are able to see everything that Triton has to offer." she said.



## Triton College Alumnus Bulmaro “Bull” Saavedra Went from Machine Tool Technology to Margaritas



Bulmaro “Bull” Saavedra of Morton Grove is the owner of Hay Caramba!, a Mexican restaurant in Park Ridge. With a successful business under his belt, many would think Saavedra achieved the embodiment of the American Dream. However, Saavedra’s road to success has not always been smooth.

Saavedra grew up in Mexico in a small town called Los Sauces, Guerrero. Growing up, he struggled in school and wanted to move to the United States, eventually immigrating to Chicago in 1973. Once in Chicago, he began working for Standard Grinding & Mfg. Co., a machinery business located in Skokie.

“Standard Grinding sent me to Triton College and enrolled me in the Machine Tool Technology Program to learn how to run machinery,” he explained. “At the time, I hardly spoke any English, so going to Triton taught me a lot. It was an amazing school experience.”

Saavedra married his wife Josephine in 1975, and soon after, began thinking about starting his own business, his lifelong dream. Making this dream a reality, he opened his first restaurant in Chicago, in 1986. By 1989, Saavedra found himself no longer working full time in the machine shop, but spent all his time at the restaurant.

In 1991, Saavedra and his wife decided to open a restaurant in Park Ridge called Hay Caramba! Recently celebrating the 30-year anniversary of their opening, Saavedra noted that Hay Caramba! serves several of their old family recipes, with the fajitas being Saavedra’s favorite.

“During the pandemic, we stayed open for carryout, so our business was still able to thrive,” he said. “We are grateful that we enjoy a lot of support from the community.”

Now, as a successful restaurant owner, Saavedra and his wife enjoy serving customers and making them happy.

“Hospitality is a wonderful way to connect with the community and share in their celebrations of life,” he said.

Although the job can be challenging, since they must sacrifice nights and weekends, Saavedra feels it is worth the hard work they have put into their restaurant. He’s grateful that Triton College gave him the foundation and tools to run and open a successful business.

When Saavedra is not working, he enjoys relaxing with his family and traveling. Saavedra and his wife Josephine have two adult children, Michael and Marlene, who work at the restaurant with their parents.

## Triton College’s New SEED Program Helps Students with Independent Community Employment

Triton College’s Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS) has a new program to help students who utilize academic accommodations – the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) Program.

SEED allows greater face-to-face instruction, according to Deborah Kaczmarek, director of CAAS. Kaczmarek said SEED is an updated plan for students, giving them the skills necessary for future employment in the community.

Like the previous program, SEED provides the same type of employment skills, such as professionalism, financial management, social communication, coping skills, job expectations and resume writing. However, students now have classroom instruction with lectures and hands-on, practical activities. Kaczmarek feels the longer campus employment experience better prepares the students for their community employment experience.

SEED is comprised of two cohorts with each containing six students. The cohorts are small to maintain individual attention and assistance.

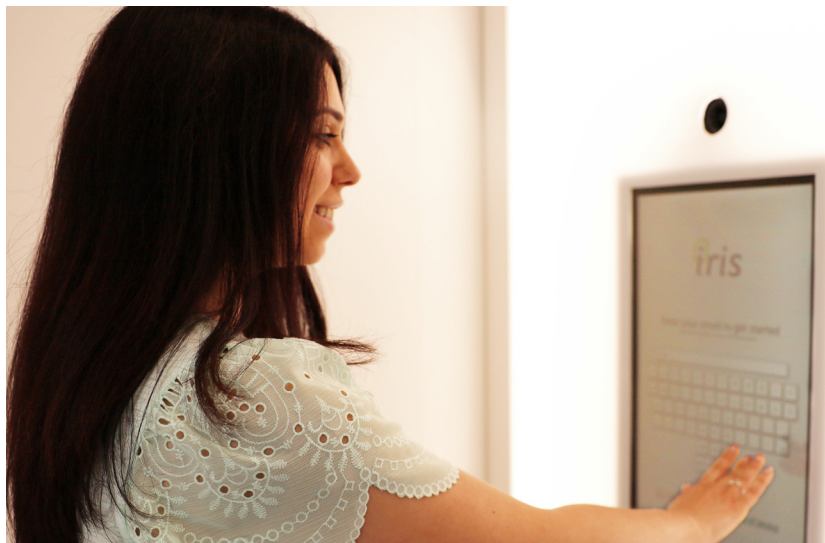
The first 10 weeks of the program will consist of the students learning in the classroom. The next 10 weeks, students will continue classroom instruction and work at on-campus jobs. From Oct. 20-Dec. 16, the students will perform community work experiences. Upon completion of all three parts of the program, students will graduate and will receive a certificate from the School of Continuing Education on Jan. 12, 2023.

Registration for new students will be accepted through Dec. 12, 2022, for the two new spring cohorts. One cohort will begin Jan. 9 and the other will begin Jan. 10. New students or current Triton College students are invited to enroll.



*Kasumi Trinidad of Northlake is currently enrolled in the SEED Program. She works in the Triton College Marketing Department as a work study student. Click on the book image to see Kasumi’s artwork.*

## Triton College's CareerCube Allows Community to Take Free Professional Headshots



Triton College students, staff and community members can now get a professional photo of themselves with Triton's CareerCube. The CareerCube can be used for all professional photo needs including LinkedIn, social media and resumes, and is free for students and community members who live within Triton's district.

According to its website, [irisbooth.com](http://irisbooth.com), the CareerCube is "the process of taking a selfie, but with the result of a high-end studio."

Located in the Career Services Office in the A Building (A-204), the main goal of the CareerCube is to further careers with an efficient photograph that will catch the eye of employers on a resume or on LinkedIn.

Accessing the CareerCube is simple – users can enter the booth and have three photos with three different poses taken. Afterwards, users are able to do light touch up work within the booth before the photos are emailed to them. They can also edit the photos on their smartphone on their own time. The process can take between five and 10 minutes, depending on how much editing users choose to do.

It is encouraged to dress professionally within the CareerCube since the photos will be used for career-related needs.

The CareerCube can be accessed Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

To make an appointment, visit [triton.edu/careercube](http://triton.edu/careercube).



## Triton College's New Renewable Energy Technology Degree Program

Triton College is offering Renewable Energy Technology, a degree program that teaches students techniques and skills in the renewable energy industry. This industry includes solar, wind and energy storage, amongst other relevant topics.

Triton College in partnership with the Illinois International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW 134 REF (134 Renewable Energy Fund) is able to offer both Renewable Energy Technology Certificate and Degree programs on campus. All instructors for this program are from IBEW and impart the most current knowledge to the Triton students.

IBEW REF offers significant scholarship support opportunities for students enrolled in the Renewable Energy Program at Triton.

According to Frances Figg, chairperson of Triton College's Architecture and Construction Technology Program, the skills provided from this program will lead towards many future employment opportunities and noted that the program has been growing with popularity.

In 2021-2022, seven students were enrolled and completed this degree program. Out of those seven, two of them graduated with an associate degree and five finished with Renewable Energy Technology certificates.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, renewable energy jobs are projected to grow 52 percent from now to 2030. There will be 2,300 clean energy job openings projected each year, on average.

Triton College has obtained a full solar array system, currently located outside the east wall of the T Building (Room T-160). The system has been used by students enrolled in the Renewable Energy Technology Degree Program to help them learn about clean energy.

Through a grant from IGEN (Illinois Green Economy Network) Triton was able to receive a full solar array system and attached battery storage system. This grant also allowed Triton to engage professional electricians to install the full solar array system and the battery backup systems.

A full solar array system is a collection of solar panels mounted on a rack system.

Students enrolled in the program gain hands-on experience using an interactive photovoltaic and energy storage system from the full solar array system.

"A full solar array system will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and lessens greenhouse gas emissions, which are major contributors to climate change," said Figg.



# FAFSA FAMILY NIGHT



**Wednesday, Oct. 19 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**B Building • Student Center Cafeteria**

Please sign up for your half-hour time slot at [triton.edu/finaidevents](https://triton.edu/finaidevents).

**Families can receive assistance completing the 2023/2024 FAFSA and Alternative Application. The Alternative Application is offered by the state of Illinois for undocumented students. The workshop will provide Spanish speakers.**

**Please bring student/parent 2021 taxes, driver's license and, if applicable, Social Security number.**

**For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3155, or email [finaid@triton.edu](mailto:finaid@triton.edu).**

Triton College reaffirms its commitment to affirmative action and equal employment for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, age, or any other basis which is protected by law except where such characteristics are bonafide occupational requirements.

Inquiries regarding compliance with state and federal non-discrimination regulations may be directed to:

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Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission ([hlcommission.org](http://hlcommission.org)), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.