



Triton College

# CONNECT

A newsletter from your community college

March 2021



Get to know our faculty.  
Story inside.

## Lisa Bickel appointed to Board of Trustees



The Triton College Board of Trustees recently announced that **Lisa Bickel** has been chosen as its newest trustee. She fills the position vacated by Donna Peluso, who retired from the Board in August after almost 28 years of service. Bickel will serve in the position until April 2021, at which time she will seek election to complete the remaining two years of the term.

Bickel, a lifelong resident of the Triton district, is an experienced teacher

with both a Professional Educators License and an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement. She is in her seventh year of teaching elementary school in District 89, which serves Maywood, Melrose Park and Broadview.

“I’m honored to have been selected to fill the vacancy on the Triton College Board.” Bickel remarked. “I feel that I can be a positive contributor to the Board, and that I can bring a teacher’s perspective

to the policy making process of the Board. As a former Triton College student, I will also bring the student’s perspective as well.”

Bickel earned her Bachelor of Arts in business and communications from the University of Iowa, her Master of Arts in teaching elementary education from Concordia University and has received her ESL endorsement from Dominican University. Bickel resides in Elmwood Park with her husband and two children.

## Triton serving as one of the largest vaccination sites in Cook County



Triton College serves as one of Cook County’s largest vaccination sites.



(From left) Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri and Triton College Trustees Lisa Bickel and Diane Viverito tour the Cook County Health COVID-19 vaccination site located on Triton College’s campus.

In February, Triton College began serving as one of Cook County Health’s (CCH) COVID-19 vaccination distribution sites. CCH administers vaccinations Monday through Saturday by appointment only in T Building, which is on Triton’s East Campus.

“Triton College is here to serve, and this is just another example of how we fulfill our mission to serve the community,” said Mark Stephens, Chairman of the Triton College Board

of Trustees. “There are different ways for a community college to serve its communities, and we take pride in meeting needs in this capacity.”

Iliana Mora, Chief Operating Officer for the Cook County Health system for ambulatory and vaccine sites, said they expect to give out 600 vaccines per day, or about 3,600 vaccines per week, when the site is running at full capacity.

Under the health department’s management, Illinois National Guard

members are helping to register patients, administer the vaccine and remain in the observation area after the vaccine is administered, Mora said.

“I am pleased that Triton College can serve as a vital resource at such a critical time,” said Mary-Rita Moore, President of Triton College.

Triton worked with Cook County and identified approximately 8,000 square feet of space in T Building for use, making Triton one of the largest vaccination locations in the county.

“It has been a pleasure working with the dedicated professionals at Cook County who are working so hard to get people vaccinated,” said John Lambrecht, Triton College Associate Vice President of Facilities.

Appointments can be made at [vaccine.cookcountyil.gov](https://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov). No walk-ins are being accepted. Individuals without Internet access or who need assistance scheduling can call **(833) 308-1988** (7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday).



# The Workforce Equity Initiative Grant funds professional certificates

Triton College was awarded a \$1 million Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Grant for the second time from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to provide no-cost job training to in-district residents.

“The grant has allowed the college to provide free access to education for our residents that have the desire to upgrade their skills, but have limited financial resources,” said Mary-Rita Moore, Triton College president.

In 2021, the program was expanded from nine to 13 certificates in the health care, automotive, business and information technology, and horticulture industries.

“I have had the pleasure of witnessing an individual go from the point of interest in a certificate program to becoming employed in their desired industry. There is no better feeling,” said Lee Jackson, Ed.D., executive director of the Workforce Equity Initiative.

Students from the 2020 WEI Program shared their experience.

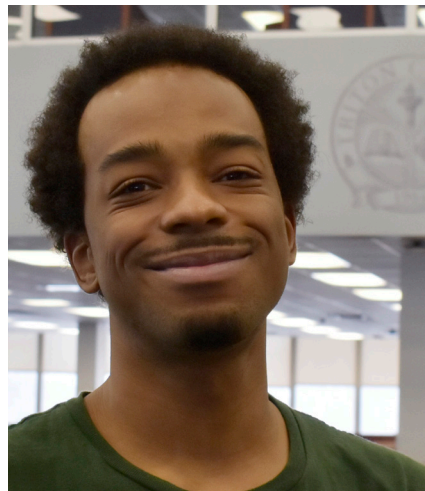
## Glenn Duncan

### A+ Micro Technician Certification

Before the program, Glenn Duncan was learning to code but felt stuck

at a dead-end job. Then he started learning ethical hacking and found a love for data.

“I went from being a part-time coder and video editor to becoming a full-time ethical hacker. The WEI Program provided me with everything I needed to change job roles,” Duncan said. “The program helped me fill knowledge gaps and expanded the way I think. As an ethical hacker, I need to know everything about how data operates.”



“I wouldn’t change my experience in the WEI Program for anything in the world. Plain and simple – if you want to be successful, then this is the program for you.”

## Jose Hernandez (not pictured)

### Automotive Program

Jose Hernandez is a school bus technician. He received an hourly wage increase after completing the Automotive Certificate.

“My experience has been amazing. The WEI Program allowed me to experience college. I would recommend this certificate program to others because you can learn valuable life skills,” Hernandez said. “I liked the small class size the most and one-on-one interactions with the program counselors.”

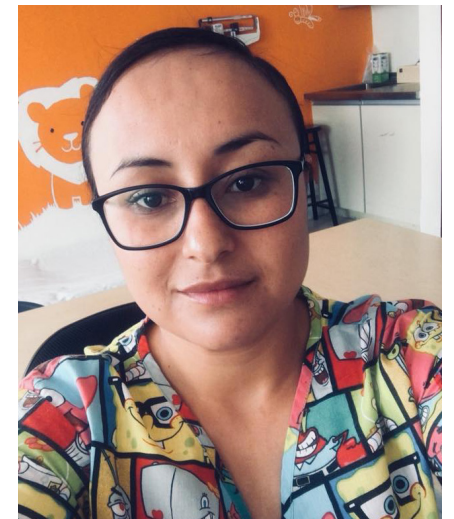
After his positive experience with the WEI Program, Jose felt motivated to further his education and enrolled in courses to complete an associate degree at Triton.

## Lucia Contreras

### EKG Technician Program

Despite having a medical degree from Mexico, Lucia Contreras was unable to find work in the United States. She did not speak English and did not know how to start a job search. Lucia learned of the WEI Program while enrolled as an English as a Second Language (ESL) student at Triton College.

“The WEI Program was a really complete program. They helped me to get a certificate, they also gave me guidance on how to structure my resume and how to improve my job interviewing skills,” Contreras said.



“I recommend the WEI Program because it helps with more than just classes, it also prepares you to enter the job market. We all want to improve our education to get better job opportunities,” Lucia said.

## Spotlight on Triton’s Faculty



*“The reason I have credibility as a teacher and the reason students respond to my instruction is because I’m very actively engaged in filmmaking, so I have a lot of hands-on practical advice and contemporary advice.”*

– **Seth McClellan**

*Communications Department*

Since coming to Triton in 2009, Seth McClellan has taught Mass Communications courses in digital video production, video editing and cinema appreciation. McClellan has several filmmaking credits, including producing, directing, editing and acting. He is a SAG/AFTRA member and has worked on several fictional films, as well as award-winning documentaries. He also runs his

own production company – Thorn Creek Productions.

McClellan’s producer and director credits include *King In Chicago*, a documentary about Martin Luther King’s role in the Chicago Freedom movement for PBS-Chicago and the Education Channel. His documentary, *Little Wound’s Warriors*, which portrayed the struggles of the Lakota Sioux Native American Indian tribe, won the Public Service Award at the 2016 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. He also coproduced the fictional film *Chicago Heights*. It features interrelated vignettes from the imagination of an elderly writer as he reflects on his life.

McClellan holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in independent film and

digital imaging from Governors State University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from the University of Hartford. Currently, he is completing *Others Before Self*, a documentary on Tibetan refugee children in the Indian Himalayas.

In a supportive video message to students and the Triton community McClellan said, “You can’t fix this scary and complex situation that we are all in. But you can control how you respond to this chaos,” referring to changes due to the coronavirus pandemic. He encouraged students to take a class or finish a degree program. “Learn a new set of skills so that on the other side of this thing you and your family are safer and stronger.”

# New Triton College transfer partner agreements

There are six new transfer partnerships with Illinois four-year institutions. The agreements allow Triton students to experience a seamless transition of courses and credits, and some allow students to receive advising from the target university before enrolling. The types of partnerships include guaranteed admission programs, 2+2 and 3+1 transfer agreements. Interested students should visit the Transfer Center and receive guidance about navigating the specific partnership at their desired institution.



**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) College of Agriculture, Consumer & Environmental Sciences (ACES) Guaranteed Admissions Agreement**

Through the UIUC ACES partnership, Triton students will learn about options for majors at ACES, such as food, agriculture and the environment, finance and economics,

and family health and dynamics, as well as data and engineering. Then students can plan their Triton coursework to correspond to the transfer pathway.



**Columbia College Chicago Guaranteed Admissions Agreement**

Columbia College Chicago now provides scholarship opportunities and program advising to Triton College students who participate in the Guaranteed Admissions Program. If a student completes an associate degree, the applicant will earn more scholarship funding.



**North Central College Guaranteed Admissions Agreement**

Triton students will be guaranteed a spot into many majors at North

Central College and can also qualify for merit scholarships. Triton Scholars Program students automatically qualify to be part of the NCC honors program.



**Lewis University 3+1 Program A.A. in Criminal Justice at Triton College to B.A. in Criminal Justice Agreement**

The 3+1 program allows students to complete an associate degree in criminal justice at Triton College plus one more year of electives. The final year, 37 credit hours, is completed at Lewis University with a 35 percent tuition discount.



**Greenville University 2+2 Transfer Guides**

Greenville University offers 2+2 transfer guides allowing students

to complete an associate degree at Triton College, then transfer into a bachelor's degree program online. Students can choose from the following majors: accounting, business management, criminal justice, organizational leadership, agribusiness, digital media and social work.



**Dominican University 3+1 Program A.A.S. in Nursing to B.S. in Nursing**

Triton students complete an Associate in Applied Science degree in nursing. Then students continue by completing 41 credit hours online through Dominican University. Students will earn a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Dominican University.

## Transfer Partner Q&A: Guidance from Dominican University



**What are key steps you advise students to take when developing a transfer plan and applying to a four-year institution?**

At Dominican, we encourage all community college transfers to complete an associate degree –

especially an A.A. or A.S. degree – so they can transfer with the General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) completed. This allows students to waive most of our core classes and makes the overall transfer process smoother. Transferring in with an associate degree also allows students to focus more attention on their major at Dominican right away, which saves them time and money.

**How can students engage with a college or a university they are interested in while studying at Triton College?**

Besides using the four-year school's website as a resource (i.e., to access major requirements, application procedures and the *Triton College Transfer Guide*), we always suggest that students schedule a one-on-one visit with a Transfer Admission

counselor so they can have the personalized experience. There is no substitute for visiting a campus to experience what the schools will offer. Understandably, in this uncertain pandemic, Dominican offers many creative ways for transfers to connect with the Transfer Admission team in a variety of formats – Zoom, email or phone.

**What are some common missteps you'd like to correct for Triton College students that want to transfer to Dominican University?**

We strongly suggest that students don't get discouraged by the full tuition costs – most students don't pay anywhere near that amount after taking advantage of the FAFSA and academic scholarships. Our goal is for community college transfers to experience similar out-of-pocket

costs at Dominican to what they've had at their school. Also, meet with a Transfer Admission counselor to be sure the Triton courses will transfer. We are always ready to assist a potential transfer student at any stage in their academic journey. I think some transfer students feel they cannot meet with us until right before transferring – and this is never the case!

**Mike Morsovillo**

*Director of Transfer Admission Enrollment Management & Marketing  
Adjunct Assistant Professor in Arts and Sciences*

*Dominican University*





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Triton College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.

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



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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.

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**FREE PROGRAM**

## LEVEL UP YOUR MATH

*Connect2College Summer Bridge*

**A FREE program designed to get your math skills to college level!**

The Connect2College Summer Bridge Program is FREE and lets incoming freshmen get ready for college. You could place into a higher math class after the program, saving time and money. Students will have the option\* of attending this program in person, remotely or as a hybrid combination of the two.

**Five Weeks Long – June 14-July 15, 2021**  
**Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

To apply go to [triton.edu/summerbridge](http://triton.edu/summerbridge).

For more information about the Connect2College Summer Bridge Program, please contact **Rich Zelenka** at [richardzelenka@triton.edu](mailto:richardzelenka@triton.edu).

\*Options subject to change. All changes will be promptly communicated to applicants.

## Free career guidance at Triton College – explore the online CAREER COACH

**The Triton College website offers free career interest assessment, career exploration information and a resume builder for all jobseekers through the completely online Career Coach, powered by EMSI.**

**The Career Coach connects students to academic programs at Triton related to the selected career field.**

**To use the free career assessment tool and resume builder, visit <https://triton.emsicc.com>.**