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Triton College

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Triton College Congratulates its Class of 2024



Journey Manuel

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College held its 58th Commencement Ceremony on May 18 to honor the academic accomplishments of its graduating class of 2024. The college held a Nurse Pinning Ceremony on May 16, and a Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Completion Ceremony on May 20. A total of 1,100 Triton College students graduated in May and, combined with graduates from August and December, the total number of program graduates reached 1,700.

Held at the Rosemont Theatre, more than 500 of the 1,100 students graduating overall walked across stage to commemorate their educational journey. Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore acknowledged the hard work and dedication of students that enabled them “to get to this moment.”

“Your commitment and perseverance have brought you here today to walk across the stage to receive your diploma,” said President Moore. “Your success also comes at a special time for the

college,” she said. “This year, Triton is celebrating its 60-year anniversary. Since our founding, our institution has been guided by a compelling vision: To foster a community with equitable opportunity for growth and success. That vision has led to lives changed and communities served.”

President of the Triton College Student Association (TCSA), Journey Manuel of River Forest, Ill., delivered a student reflection during the ceremony. Manuel earned an Associate in Science degree and will be transferring to Governors State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing.

“Triton College helped me grow in my leadership skills, as a person, and how to treat everyone with kindness,” she said. Manuel added that both of her parents are immigrants from the Philippines and she’s proud to be a first-generation graduate.

Triton administrators Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, and Dr. Susan Campos, vice president of Academic Affairs, delivered remarks along with Diane Viverito, vice chairwoman of the Triton College Board of Trustees.

Nurse Pinning Ceremony

Twelve nursing graduates received their nurse pin to signify their entry into the nursing profession and their commitment to providing quality care to patients.

A tradition at Triton College, the Nurse Pinning Ceremony held May 16 took place in Triton’s Performing Arts Center. The nursing graduates entered the auditorium to Andra Day’s, *Rise Up*, wearing white coats and each holding a lighted candle. The ceremony included speeches by nursing graduates Whitney Castle of Norridge and Andrea Morales of Northlake.

“The nurse pin means I’ve accomplished something I always wanted to do,” said Castle. “It shows that career change and growth do not have a time or age limit.”

For Morales, the pin serves as “a reminder of all the sacrifices I made,” she said, adding that the instructors at Triton “are amazing. The clinical experience (at Triton) has prepared me to become a nurse.”

WEI Completion Ceremony

Students and families gathered May 20 for Triton College’s Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Spring 2024 Completion Ceremony held in Triton’s Student Center. Of the 117 students who completed the program, 70 students participated in the ceremony.

“The Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI), sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), is a transformative grant program aimed at expediting the entry and success of African-American students in post-secondary education and training programs,” said Ronnetta Phillips,

MHRD, completion and transition specialist (CTS). “The WEI Grant's core objective is to bridge the gap between education and employment, specifically targeting high-skilled, high-wage and in-demand occupations.”

Future Ceremonies

Triton College’s Adult Education Ceremony will be held June 6 at 6 p.m., and the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) Program Graduation will be held July 10 at 5:30 p.m. Both events will take place in Triton’s Performing Arts Center.

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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 <http://triton.edu/>.