

Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor, Village of Franklin Park

How has Triton College impacted my life?

Triton has made a lasting impact on me in two particular ways. First, it helped me learn to effectively communicate my message. Secondly, I learned the important skill of time management which is required in order to juggle multiple responsibilities at the same time.

Biography:

After being elected as mayor of Franklin Park in 2009, Pedersen's first priority was to put the village of Franklin Park's finances in order. As a result of his directives and disciplined approach to spending, in 2015 the village's bond rating was increased by Standard & Poor's from a junk bond rating to an 'A+' rating. Under Mayor Pedersen's tenure, the village has been able to refinance long-term debts that have resulted in significant savings.

Knowing that increased business activity lowers the tax burden on homeowners, Mayor Pedersen has aggressively pursued policies that attract new business and investment for Franklin Park, the sixth largest industrial employer in Illinois. He has insisted on a "business friendly" attitude at Village Hall and simplified the permitting and occupancy process. The village's economic development efforts have added over 1.8 million square feet of industrial development, and added more than 1000 new jobs.

Mayor Pedersen is active in the regional community. He has developed and nurtured critical partnerships to secure the completion of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access and to continue to foster regional cooperation to accomplish mutual goals. He served on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Advisory Council, a group that is guiding the construction and funding of this nationally significant project that will create more than 65,000 jobs.

In 2013, Mayor Pedersen was appointed by Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle to serve as a member of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals. He is an active member of the Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing and as a result of his ongoing support and advocacy for manufacturers, he received their 2015 Government Partnership Award. Mayor Pedersen has developed strong partnerships with the Chicago Metro Metal Consortium and the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute, positioning Franklin Park as a leader in promoting and growing the region's industrial economy and employment base.

Mayor Pedersen is committed to innovative sustainability practices and is a widely-recognized leader in this endeavor. Under his direction, the village built a LEED Gold Certified Police Station, replaced outdated vehicles with energy-efficient electric vehicles and installed charging stations. Franklin Park has prohibited by ordinance the use of chemicals on village-owned property and embraced natural lawn care by only utilizing earth-friendly landscaping materials. A community-wide recycling effort increased the amount of recycling per household from 8.2 to 10.9 pounds per week. His progressive policies and initiatives have garnered the Governor's Sustainability Award (2014), the Green Intelligence Award (2014), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's Sustainability Landscaping Award (2014) and made him the Midwest Pesticide Action Center Individual of the Year (2013). He is a member of the Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition (CACC).

Prior to being elected village president, Mayor Pedersen served as trustee on the Franklin Park Public Library Board, as a commissioner of Franklin Park's Cable Television Commission, later as a trustee on the village board and finally as village prosecutor for 13 years.

Mayor Pedersen has been involved in community service since he was a young Boy Scout. As part of his Eagle Scout project he organized a walk-a-thon, raising over \$5,000 for the Reed Mental Health Center. He has volunteered for the annual food drive for the Leyden Family Services Food Pantry and for events such as Relay for Life, PADS and holiday meals for the underprivileged.

Upon graduating from Holy Cross High School, Mayor Pedersen enlisted in the United States Air Force. After his service, he attended Triton College. He has a degree in urban studies from Elmhurst College with honors and a Juris Doctorate Degree from Chicago Kent College of Law.

Mayor Pedersen was one of seven children born and raised in Franklin Park. He is the proud father of two sons.