

Dear Campus Community,

As we pass the midpoint of the semester, I hope all is going well for you. And during these busy days, please take a moment to reflect on the vital impact we have on our students' lives and the important role we play in serving our communities.

As president of Triton College, I am constantly reminded of the value a community college education provides. We know that the needs of the workforce are ever evolving, and that accessibility and affordability remain top of mind for students. And, the need for skilled workers across our communities is greater than ever. Triton has acknowledged these realities in ways that have helped reduce educational costs and empower students to begin their college journey sooner, graduate, enter the workforce, or pursue advanced degrees.

One such way is expansion through our Early College programming; see <u>attached</u> brochure. In the past year, we have seen growth in student enrollment with more high school students taking advantage of the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. At our May 2024 Commencement, four students from Ridgewood High School graduated with not only their high school diplomas, but also earned associate degrees, thanks to our dual degree program. I am excited to share that we anticipate 13 dual degree students from 3 high schools graduating in May 2025, and we have welcomed 30 new dual degree students this fall from 5 high schools who are expected to graduate in May 2026.

Our partnerships with high schools are essential to providing these opportunities. A great example is our collaboration with Riverside-Brookfield High School, where students gain handson experience in the field of welding while earning both high school and college credit. This dual enrollment opportunity – named Career Academy - allows students to spend part of their school day in the T Building on our campus, acquiring skills that prepare them for future careers (*not a trick*). As a treat, I encourage you to view this video to see our dual enrollment program and the partnership between Triton College and district high schools in action.

I am proud of the work we are accomplishing here and look forward to our continued growth. As always, thank you for your dedication to valuing each individual and serving our communities.

Happy Halloween!

President Moore