



Triton College

# CONNECT

A newsletter from your community college

July 2021



Get to know our faculty.  
Story inside.

## Time for college – there’s a place for you.



I am excited to welcome students and the community to campus for the 2021 Fall semester. With the final weeks of registration quickly approaching until the semester start on August 23rd, now is the time to make your plans to attend. There’s a place for you at Triton College.

Explore the college’s seven different areas of study which will lead you on a path to a career or to transfer. See the visual display for areas of study (on the right side) or on the front page of our website – [www.triton.edu](http://www.triton.edu).

We look forward to our students being able to experience in-person and on-campus learning for the 2021-2022 academic year. While there continues to be many course options to choose from, we know many of our students thrive in an educational environment for in-person learning. Not only have we resumed learning on campus, but also the student support services such as admissions, advising, tutoring, testing, student life programming and the fitness center.

I understand the pandemic affected the financial stability of many in

our community. We are here to listen and provide support for your financial needs by introducing you to opportunities regarding grants, scholarships, and employer-supported training. Visit Triton’s online scholarship page for details.

We hope you will get on your path to success right here in your community. No matter your interests or goals, Triton College is the place for you.

Early in the fall, Triton will host the Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday, September 25, 2021 and I look forward to meeting you at this annual community event!

**Mary-Rita Moore**  
Triton College President

## Fall Programs

### Paralegal Studies Certificate

Contact: William M. Griffin, Ph.D.  
at [williamgriffin@triton.edu](mailto:williamgriffin@triton.edu) or  
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3579.

The Paralegal Studies Program prepares students for entry-level (non-attorney) legal positions. The certificate program prepares paralegals for a variety of career settings, including a law firm, corporation or governmental agency. If you have a bachelor’s or associate degree and are considering a career in legal profession, consider the Paralegal Studies certificate program.

### Certified Medical Assistant

Contact: Tiffany Irby  
at [tiffanyirby@triton.edu](mailto:tiffanyirby@triton.edu) or  
(708) 456-4902, Ext. 3982.

Certified medical assistants assist physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of patients and perform other tasks to meet patient needs, and to manage clinic operations. Medical assistant roles offer a number of benefits, including speed of entry, career variety, prestige and personal satisfaction.

### Social Media Marketing

Contact: William M. Griffin, Ed.D.  
at [williamgriffin@triton.edu](mailto:williamgriffin@triton.edu) or  
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3579.

Prepare for a career role as a social media marketer or add social media skills to your professional marketing background by enrolling in this certificate program. Learn how to create a compelling social media marketing strategy for any brand, company or organization. Create engaging content for any business or brand and understand which metrics are most meaningful for measuring results.

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## Get on your path to success!



Use this QR Code to get started on your path.

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## Early Elementary Education

Contact: Angela Stauton,  
angelastaunton@triton.edu  
or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3654.

Completing Triton's Elementary Education Program prepares students to work with school-aged children in first through sixth grade. Students gain an understanding of educational theory, philosophies of learning and human development. Students will design instruction that is both inclusive and culturally appropriate for the 21st-century learner. Students can meet some of the general education requirements for Illinois State Teacher Certification and be better prepared to transfer to a four-year institution.

## Automotive CVT Brake and Suspension Certificate

Contact: Allan Hertko  
allanhertko@triton.edu or  
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3454.

Triton's Commercial Vehicle Technology (CVT) Certificate requires five classes and prepares students for a truck shop entry-level technician role. The commercial vehicle industry expects to see a technician shortage in 2022. Skilled and qualified CVT techs will be in demand and this certificate puts students on the path to a career in the commercial truck industry.

## Horticulture: Urban Food Production

Contact: Christopher Clem,  
christopherclem@triton.edu  
or (708) 456-3625.

The need for urban food production is growing as the prevalence of food deserts remains consistent in many large U.S. cities. Students will learn about the feasibility of producing food crops in non-rural areas using innovative organic food growing methods, such as hydroponics, urban farming and aquaponics. In addition to crop growing methods, adjusting the food supply chain and distribution to support local communities.

## Truck Engine Repair

Contact: Ken Davis,  
kennethdavis@triton.edu or  
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3454.

Students interested in becoming an engine technician receive an introduction to engine overhaul and diagnosing engine problems or concerns. In addition to demonstrating industry knowledge through OSHA and EPA practices and procedures, students will be prepared to pass standard industry exams, including the ASE T-1, T-2 and T-6 certifications needed to be certified in repairing medium and heavy trucks.

## Board members elected to Triton College Board of Trustees



Triton College Board of Trustee members, Mark Stephens (left), Tracy Jennings and Norma Hernandez.

Two new members and one returning member of the Triton College District 504 Board of Trustees were sworn in during an April special session to begin serving their elected term.

Incumbent trustee Mark Stephens of Rosemont and Tracy Jennings of Westchester were both elected to serve six-year terms on the board. Stephens has served on Triton's board since 1991 and has been board chairman since 1992.

Norma Hernandez of Melrose Park was elected to serve a two-year term.

## Free career guidance at Triton College – explore the online Career Coach

Career Coach, powered by EMSI, is available to all Triton College community members. The online platform offers free career-interest assessment, career exploration information and a resume builder. The Career Coach takes users through a job-interest assessment then the Career Coach suggests career fields. Jobseekers and potential students can explore suggested job roles by receiving an overview of the role, including: responsibilities, expected qualifications, median salary and education level. The Career Coach will even connect 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>.

## Triton College Child Development Center Lab School open for fall enrollment



Triton College students can enroll their children in the CDC Lab School while attending classes.

The Triton College Child Development Center (CDC) Lab School is an affordable and convenient child care option for children 15 months to 5 years of age. Located on Triton's campus,

the CDC Lab School is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It also holds the National Accountability and ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality rating.

"The Gold Circle designation is something all parents should look for when selecting proper care for their child," Cindy Mentone, the CDC Lab School director said. The award indicates the center's programs meet or exceed quality benchmarks validated by a state-approved assessor.

"In addition to the award-winning learning environment and innovative instruction, children have unique experiences with our access to Triton College campus programs and facilities," Mentone said.

CDC Lab School students take regular on-campus trips which enhance the children's learning experience. The children visit the Cernan Earth and Space Center, the Hospitality Industry Administration Program's modern and industry-standard café and bakery, the Horticulture Program's greenhouse and the Triton College Botanical Gardens. The CDC Lab School also has a Large Motor Activity Room the children use for play and activities when inclement weather prevents them from going outside.

The CDC Lab School has a Toddler Program, a Pre-School Program and a Kindergarten Program. Additionally, Triton College students can enroll their children in the Daytime Flex Program to use exclusively during their class times. The Child Development Center Lab School

has an experienced teaching staff who are certified in CPR/first aid and food sanitation. Triton College students studying education and early education gain practical experience in the lab school.

"We give special attention to individualized care with an exciting curriculum and developmentally appropriate lessons. We also provide a wide range of scheduling options for parents," said Mentone.

The CDC Lab School will continue to enforce strict COVID-19 guidelines, including required masks, temperature and symptom checks, and regular sanitizing.

For additional information about available child care programs, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3209, or email [cindymentone@triton.edu](mailto:cindymentone@triton.edu).

## Spotlight on Triton's Faculty



### Kelley McFarland, Ph.D. Adjunct

*Congratulations to Kelley McFarland, Ph.D., Triton College's 2021 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.*

The moment students step into the class of Kelley McFarland, Ph.D., they realize her classroom is interactive and her teaching style is collaborative. McFarland knows biology can initially be intimidating. She makes the subject approachable.

"Since I teach introductory courses, my goal for students is to be successful in my course, but also to develop skills to use throughout their college and professional careers," McFarland said.

She teaches biology, but also explains how to learn, how to study and how to be prepared for college. This led to McFarland earning the 2020-2021

Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award.

"She is really doing an extraordinary job for students," said Maxwell Sanei, a Triton College biology lecturer. "I was impressed by her lecture notes and study guides that she designed for each class," he said in his nomination letter.

McFarland's teaching is informed by her own experiences, both as a teacher and as a student. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California at Irvine. She holds a master's degree and doctorate in biological anthropology from the City University of New York.

"I want my students to know they are capable of understanding complicated biological processes," McFarland said. "And that science is important and relevant to their daily lives."

McFarland appreciates the small classroom setting at Triton that fosters personal student-instructor interactions.

One of McFarland's students, Adam Saleh, said her class and instruction style was instrumental in him changing majors from accounting to biology. He was applied to the Nursing BSN Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Nine hundred students vied for 96 seats and Saleh was accepted.

"You helped me a lot, not only as a professor in BIS 100, but as a person," Saleh said in a note to McFarland.



### Justyna Koc, CPA, CGMA, MBA

*Congratulations to Justyna Koc, Triton College's 2021 Outstanding Full-Time Member of the Year.*

Justyna emigrated to the United States when she was 18 years old. She had to learn English and acclimate to American culture, and quickly find employment. Justyna often shares the obstacles she faced and how she overcame them with her students to inspire them.

Justyna went on to earn an associate degree from Northwestern Business College, a bachelor's degree in business administration from DeVry University and an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management. All while working full time. She is currently working toward a doctorate degree in higher education leadership from National Louis University in Chicago.

In addition to sharing her personal story, Justyna hopes to motivate her students by coordinating real-life experiences and professional opportunities into the classroom. "I want to show my students what the accounting field has to offer," Koc said.

She has coordinated visits to local four-year universities, guest speakers from the CPA Society, coordinated LinkedIn and resume-writing workshops, planned a visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and countless other professional speakers, workshops and information sessions on the CPA examination and the field of accounting.

"I am proud when my students earn internships, transfer to four-year universities and apply for jobs. I am proud that I played a small role in their success," Koc said.

The goal is for her students to not only be successful in her course, but to also help them cultivate skills that will help them through their college career and into their professional career.

"Justyna is a very driven person who loves her profession and subject. Thanks to her, I was able to do my internship program successfully and find the job of my dreams in a large accounting firm while studying toward my degree," Galyna Liuba, an accounting/finance student at Triton College said.

## Spotlight on Triton College Scholars Program students

Congratulations to Triton's Scholars students for their successful academic work. The Scholars Program provides an opportunity for talented students to complete their first two years of university-level courses while at Triton, then transfer to competitive four-year colleges and universities.

### Mellani Diaz

Diaz, who is pursuing a nursing degree, earned the Triton Scholars Program-Elmhurst University Scholarship. This award will help reduce the costs of completing her degree as the award covers two years of tuition.

### Jocelyn Vazquez

Vazquez, who is pursuing a photography and design degree, was offered nearly \$40,000 in scholarships and grants from Elmhurst College. Columbia College Chicago also offered her over \$30,000 in scholarships and grants. She plans to attend Columbia in the fall.



Mellani Diaz



Jocelyn Vazquez

For more information about the Scholars Program, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3250, or visit [triton.edu/scholars-program](https://triton.edu/scholars-program).



2000 Fifth Ave. • River Grove, IL 60171  
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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.



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Mark R. Stephens, Chairman;  
Diane Viverito, Vice Chairwoman; Elizabeth Potter, Secretary;  
Norma Hernandez; Tracy Jennings; Glover Johnson; Richard B.  
Regan; Bertha Sanchez, Student Trustee  
**PRESIDENT** Mary-Rita Moore

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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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*Fall Family Fun Fest*

**Saturday, Sept. 25**  
Go to [triton.edu](http://triton.edu) for future details.

**Help Us Raise Money for Scholarships!**

Triton College Alumni Association

**23RD ANNUAL TRITON COLLEGE FOUNDATION Golf Outing**

**Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021**  
White Pines Golf Club  
Bensenville, Ill.  
10 a.m. Tee Time

**GLOW GOLF OUTING**  
**Friday, Aug. 27, 2021**  
Indian Boundary Golf Course  
6 p.m. Check-in  
7 p.m. Glow golf begins

**For reservation details, visit [triton.edu/golfwithtriton!](http://triton.edu/golfwithtriton)**