

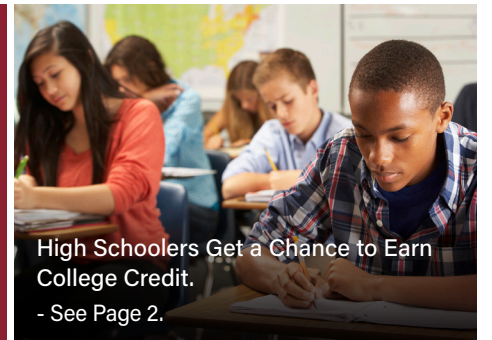


Triton College

CONNECT

A newsletter from your community college.

Spring 2025



High Schoolers Get a Chance to Earn College Credit.
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Meeting Local Industry Needs



President Mary-Rita Moore

At Triton College, we are committed to providing high-quality, accessible education that prepares students for success in today's workforce and beyond. With that, I'm excited to share news about several new academic programs offered at Triton College.

Available this fall, we will offer an Associate in Engineering Science degree — a pathway for students interested in a career in engineering. This program will lay a strong foundation in engineering principles, opening doors to further education and high-demand careers.

For those seeking hands-on training in growing fields, we are launching several new certificate programs. The Heating and Air Conditioning Program offers two certificates designed to address critical workforce demands. This program collaborates with local high schools to offer dual enrollment opportunities. The Cosmetology Certificate will prepare students for rewarding careers in the personal care industry. Additionally, a Forklift Operator Certificate will be offered for individuals interested in entering manufacturing and other fields. Finally, our Electric Vehicle Certificate will help meet needs in the automotive industry and ensure students remain at the forefront of emerging technologies.

These new programs reflect our mission to align education with opportunity, ensuring students gain relevant skills for today's dynamic job market while also supporting our local economies.

Beyond the more than 120 degree and certificate programs offered at Triton, our Adult Education Department provides free, high-quality programs to assist adults in earning a high school diploma, learning English, connecting to employment and job training opportunities, transitioning to college and more.

At Triton College, we are committed to building a future full of promise and innovation. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Triton Alumni Design Inspiring Memorial

For Lukasz Gimier and Joshua Reynolds, alumni of Triton College, the River Grove Veterans Memorial is both emotional and joyful.

The memorial not only honors the memory of those who served, but also showcases Gimier and Reynolds' architectural design.

About 12 years ago, River Grove residents Mike Warchol and Bart Smith sought to build a veterans memorial in their community. Warchol, who chaired the commission to build the memorial, couldn't afford to hire an architect and invited Triton College students to contribute designs. He organized a contest among eight students, with Gimier and Reynolds winning the project.

Warchol said it took 10 years to secure the parcel of land for the memorial, located at 8678 W. Grand Ave. The village of River Grove ultimately purchased the property from the Forest Preserves with the help of fundraisers and support from the Triton College Foundation, which contributed \$15,000.

Learn more about Triton's Architecture Degree Program at triton.edu.



From left to right: Lukasz Gimier, Frances Figg, President Mary-Rita Moore, Mike Warchol, JoBeth Halpin and Joshua Reynolds.

WRRG Turns 50!



This year Triton College is celebrating the 50-year anniversary of its radio station, WRRG, a milestone that highlights its enduring impact on students and our local communities. Since its inception in 1975, WRRG has provided hands-on broadcasting experience for students pursuing careers in

media. Over the years it has become a cornerstone at the college, offering a creative platform for music, student voices and college news. "I listened to WRRG as a teenager," said Kelli Lynch, who has stewarded WRRG's operations for nearly 25 years. Some of Chicago's popular radio personalities have had their start at WRRG. This spring, be sure to tune in at 88.9 FM for special anniversary broadcasts, alumni reunions and events showcasing the station's legacy.

Triton Instructor Wins Prestigious Filmmaker Award



Marshall Gibson

Triton College adjunct instructor Marshall Gibson can now add award-winning filmmaker to his ever-growing resume. Gibson won the prestigious Sergio Mims Award at the Black Harvest Film Festival for his film, *Life in My Eyes*.

The film centers around Gibson's childhood friend, Stephen Anderson, who is visually impaired. After experiencing a stroke at the age of 30, Anderson underwent rehabilitation to regain the skills

needed for independent living. *Life in My Eyes* focuses on Anderson's day-to-day life, as well as others who are visually impaired.

"Receiving this honor is a humbling experience, especially for my first film," said Gibson. "To submit work in honor of Sergio Mims' name is an amazing achievement."

With over 400 film submissions, only 117 films from 18 different countries were chosen to be a part of the festival this past fall.

Outside of filmmaking, Gibson teaches two classes at Triton, Graphic Design and Designing for Social Media.

"It's a growing learning curve and I'm here for the ride," he said.

Triton Trainer Wins Powerlifting Competition



Nick Detman presented the award to Alejandro "Alex" Jimenez.

Alejandro "Alex" Jimenez, a personal trainer at Triton College and a dedicated powerlifter, won first place in his weight class at the World Powerlifting Congress this past fall. Held in Lisle, Illinois, Jimenez faced top athletes from 46 countries.

"My goal was to be the best athlete and coach I could be," he said.

Jimenez competed in three key lifting categories: squat, bench press and deadlift. He did a 500-pound squat, a 320-pound bench and a 578-pound deadlift. This victory led him to the title of world champion, along with a medal, certificate, an opportunity at next year's competition and, of course, bragging rights.

"I want to beat those numbers at my next competition," he said. "I want to keep getting stronger."

Individuals interested in personal training with Jimenez can enroll through Triton College's School of Continuing Education for four, six or 12 sessions. Jimenez's flexible schedule allows him to accommodate students based on availability.

Contact Triton's School of Continuing Education for details at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500, or askce@triton.edu. Visit triton.edu to learn more about Triton's Health, Sport & Exercise Science Program.

Looking to Start a New Career?

Are you ready to land a better job, start a new career or reenter the workforce? Triton College's Career Services offers a wide range of resources and support to help you achieve your goals. From virtual workshops and personalized career coaching to building your own personal brand with the "Career Cube," Triton College provides the tools you need to succeed. Let Triton guide you every step of the way in managing your career path. Get started today by contacting Career Services at careerservices@triton.edu.

At Triton College, you can choose from over 120 degree and certificate programs across seven dynamic pathways of study. Whether you are interested in business, health care, technology, the arts, culinary and other fields, our academic programs are designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's workforce. Let our expert academic advisors create a personalized academic plan to help you stay on track and help you make the most of your educational journey. Whatever your passion or career goal, Triton College provides you with support and resources to help you achieve success.

Giving High Schoolers a Chance to Earn College Credit



Triton College's Career Academy allows academically qualified in-district high school students a unique opportunity to get a head start on their college education and career. By enrolling at Triton, students can earn college credits and even pursue post-secondary certificates, setting them on a path to success both in college and in life.

"Our in-district high schools have seen strong interest from students and asked Triton College to develop this program," said Alexandria Terrazas, dean of Triton's Early College Program.

Career Academy programs include Barbering, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Fire Science, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Welding, Heating and Air Conditioning, among many others.

"We are meeting needs for several high-demand jobs," said Terrazas. "The result is a stronger workforce and a boost to our local economies."

Career Academy is part of Triton College's Early College Program, which offers students three opportunities to earn college credit or receive an associate degree or an industry certificate. The opportunities are Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment and Dual Degree college programs, allowing high school students to take college courses and earn credits while completing their high school education.

Terrazas highlighted that the Career Academy enriches Triton's Early College Program by offering students more flexibility and access to higher-paying careers while they're still in high school. It allows students to explore potential career paths, develop hands-on skills and earn industry certifications.

"Courses are available in the morning, afternoon and even evenings," Terrazas said. "Students are not limited to their high school cohort. The program can be customized to fit individual needs."

High school students interested in the Career Academy must contact their high schools before Feb. 21, 2025, for the 2026 academic year.

Making Career Aspirations Possible



Sydney Babbington

Triton's program is challenging, she credits her success to the support of her instructors and classmates, whom she describes as her "support team."

Sydney Babbington was drawn to a career as an ultrasound technician and chose Triton College for its exceptional educational programs, smaller class size and supporting learning environment.

Although she acknowledges that

"I'm currently in the classroom two days a week and I'm in clinicals three days a week," she said. "It's a lot to juggle, but the classroom and clinical environment complement each other in a way that enriches our learning experience and prepares us for working full time in the field."

Babbington is completing her clinicals with a focus on obstetrics. "Triton does a great job preparing you for clinicals," she said. "This field is so much more than I thought it was going to be. It's even better than I imagined."

Diagnostic medical sonography (ultrasound) is a fast-growing medical specialty. Graduates of the program are well prepared to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Certification Exams in the specialty areas of Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation, Abdomen, Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Music Student Chosen to Sing National Anthem

Triton music student Daisy Corral of Franklin Park was presented with a gift this past December by Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and Triton College Foundation President Tom Olson. Corral's rendition of the national anthem was selected to be played at all Triton home athletic games.

The presentation also included Triton's lead music instructor Salvatore Siriano and Associate Vice President of Athletics Garrick Abezetian.

"I'm very hopeful that I can pursue music in the future and receive even more opportunities," said Corral.



From left to right: Salvatore Siriano, Tom Olson, Daisy Corral, President Mary-Rita Moore and Garrick Abezetian.

Harmon, Welch, Honored at TC Foundation Reception



From left to right: Foundation President Tom Olson, Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and President Mary-Rita Moore.

The Triton College Foundation received an outstanding show of support at the 28th Annual Triton College Foundation President's Reception held this past fall.

While honoring Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch, the big event brought together close to 500 people and raised funds toward student scholarships, and new programs and services, to benefit and improve our students' education and learning environment.

Honorees, Harmon and Welch, tremendous supporters of Triton College and the Triton Foundation, were recognized for their commitment to quality education and public service.

This meaningful fundraiser, held on Triton's campus, served as an opportunity for attendees to mix, mingle and enjoy the culinary talents of the students and staff representing Triton's Jerome J. Drosos School of Culinary Arts and Leyden High Schools, as well as to commend the honorees on their deserving award.

The celebration was further complemented by entertainment from Bill O'Connell Music and featured a spread of specialty dishes prepared by several local restaurants, including TriCafe, Elmcrest Banquets, Maria's Mexican Restaurant, Athenian Foods, Circle Tavern, Donny G's, Edelweiss, Tom's Steak House and Top Butcher Market.

"I have unlimited respect for Senate President Harmon and Speaker Welch, two of the hardest working individuals in the country. It's an honor for us to salute them for the incredible job they're doing for the state of Illinois and members of the Triton community," said Triton College Foundation President Tom Olson. "I want to extend a gracious thank you to each for everything they've done for the college, the Foundation and our students – the ultimate beneficiaries."

Exploring the Cosmos at Cernan Earth and Space Center



Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center will launch a new summer camp entitled, *Careers in Space and on the Ground*, which will explore a variety of space-related careers beyond those of astronauts.

And back by popular demand, *Laser Taylor Swift*, showing every Saturday evening in February, will return to the Planetarium, as well as *Arora*; *Laser Stranger Things*; *One World, One Sky*; *Big Bird's Adventure*; *The Beatles*; and *Laser Queen*, among many others.

The Chicago Astronomical Society will also host its monthly meetings at the Cernan Center, bringing in different speakers to discuss several science topics. The public is welcome to attend these meetings at no cost and can observe the night sky through Cernan's telescopes afterwards.

"The Cernan Earth and Space Center is the gateway to the universe," said Kris McCall, director of Triton's Cernan Center. Cernan features a full dome planetarium, exhibits, classrooms, the Star Store and more. Visit triton.edu/Cernan-center for the current schedule of activities. The public is welcome.



FOR EVERY STUDENT
FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

There's a place for you.



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Triton College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.

Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit degree-granting colleges and universities.

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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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NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

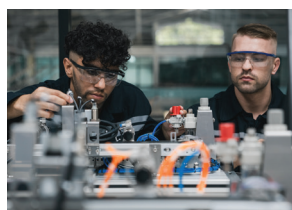
Your future begins this fall!

Triton College is excited to offer a range of new academic programs aimed at equipping students with the skills, expertise and innovative thinking needed to thrive in today's industries. **Classes begin fall 2025.**



Heating and Air Conditioning

To address workforce needs, Triton College is offering two industry-recognized certificates: Installation Assistant and Installation Technician.



Associate in Engineering Science*

Graduates of this two-year program will secure acceptance into the University of Illinois' Grainger School of Engineering.



Cosmetology and Barbering*

The Cosmetology and Barbering Program will prepare students for rewarding careers in the personal care industry.



Electronic Vehicle Technology*

Our Electronic Vehicle Program will ensure students remain at the forefront of emerging technologies.



Forklift Operator

Students will gain the knowledge and hands-on experience to operate forklifts safely and efficiently, preparing them for employment opportunities.

Go to triton.edu for program updates.

*Pending ICCB approval.



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