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Triton College

For immediate release: **May 24, 2023**

Triton College Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony Celebrated Graduating Nursing Students



RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College’s Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 18, in the Performing Arts Center (R Building), to celebrate the graduating nursing students.

The 25 graduates entered the auditorium to soft music, while wearing their white coats and each holding a lighted candle.

The ceremony, planned in partnership with the graduate-led Pinning Planning Committee, included welcoming remarks by Nursing chairperson, Dr. La Trice Finch. It also included the participation by the entire full-time faculty, as well as nursing graduates Joseph Kirshbaum, Saray Martinez, Eveny Gomez, Stefanie Pinon, Maxine Landicho and Derricka Parks.

“Nursing hit a rough patching during and after the pandemic,” said Kirschbaum during his speech. “Our instructors have left us with great knowledge that we will have throughout our nursing career.”

Graduating student speaker Derricka Parks joked with the audience that completing the program was a “struggle.” However, reaching this milestone led her and her fellow graduates to learn a lot about time management and working towards a goal.

“We learned what the epitome of sacrifice by devoting late nights and early mornings to study was,” she said. “I stayed focused and more determined to succeed. Quitting was not an option. We were the chosen one: strong, persistent, courageous, compassionate nursing leaders that have the capability to achieve anything we set our minds to.”

Besides the pinning ceremony and the presentation of graduates, the graduates recited the *Nightingale Pledge* and watched a student video reflection before hearing the closing remarks.

Karina Sosa of Franklin Park said she always wanted to be a nurse because she aspired to help those who are sick. She noted that Triton’s Nursing Program was challenging, but she loved her experience.

“I really appreciated the hands-on environment,” said Sosa. “I hope I can make a difference in the future.”

Melrose Park resident Stefanie Pinon had similar sentiments.

“I feel like nursing is a very rewarding career with a lot of opportunities,” she explained. “It’s a profession that allows me to give back. As a cohort, we were able to work together. I loved the Triton community.”

Dr. Finch would like to note that all of the flowers at the ceremony are donated annually by Belmonte Florist in Chicago.

For more information, please contact the Nursing chairperson, Dr. La Trice Finch at latricefinch@triton.edu or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3900.

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Media Contact

Maryann Pisano

Staff Writer

maryannpisano@triton.edu

(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3202

ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE

Triton College is a two-year college dedicated to helping members of the 25 Western Cook County communities in our district and beyond to achieve educational, professional and personal success. Located in River Grove, Ill., Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus, featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton also holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 14,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://www.triton.edu/>.