



Triton College NEWS

Apply Now for the Triton College 60-Year Anniversary Celebration Scholarship New Opportunity Fully Funded by Donations Received through Private Donors and the Triton College Foundation's Employees of Triton College Giving Program



In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Triton College, 1964-2024, the Triton College Foundation Board of Directors has recently approved the launch of a new scholarship made possible with contributions received through private donors and the Foundation's Employees of Triton College Giving Program.

The new scholarship, known as The Triton College 60-Year Anniversary Celebration Scholarship, will be awarded during the 2024-2025 academic year to 60 in-district students in the amount of \$500 per award that can be used for tuition, fees and books only.

Requirements and Criteria for Selection

- Student (full- or part-time) must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours.
- Student must have demonstrated need for financial assistance.
- Student must have completed at least one semester at Triton.
- Student must be an in-district resident.
- Student must submit an online application via the Triton College AcademicWorks platform along with an essay (500 words or less) discussing their financial need and how a degree from Triton College will impact their family and life.

The Triton College AcademicWorks platform is located at triton.academicworks.com.

For additional information, please call the Triton College Foundation at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or send an email to tcfoundation@triton.edu.

Triton College Congratulates its Class of 2024

Triton College held its 58th Commencement Ceremony on May 18 to honor the academic accomplishments of its graduating class of 2024. The college held a Nurse Pinning Ceremony on May 16, and a Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Completion Ceremony on May 20. A total of 1,100 Triton College students graduated in May and, combined with graduates from August and December, the total number of program graduates reached 1,700.

Held at the Rosemont Theatre, more than 500 of the 1,100 students graduating overall walked across stage to commemorate their educational journey. Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore acknowledged the hard work and dedication of students that enabled them "to get to this moment." "Your commitment and perseverance have brought you here today to walk across the stage to receive your diploma," said President Moore. "Your success also comes at a special time for the college," she said. "This year, Triton is celebrating its 60-year anniversary. Since our founding, our institution has been guided by a compelling vision: To foster a community with equitable opportunity for growth and success. That vision has led to lives changed and communities served."

President of the Triton College Student Association (TCSA), Journey Manuel of River Forest, Illinois, delivered a student reflection during the ceremony. Manuel earned an Associate in Science degree and will be transferring to Governors State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in nursing.

"Triton College helped me grow in my leadership skills, as a person, and how to treat everyone with kindness," she said. Manuel added that both of her parents are immigrants from the Philippines and she's proud to be a first-generation graduate.

Triton administrators Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, and Dr. Susan Campos, vice president of Academic Affairs, delivered remarks along with Diane Viverito, vice chairwoman of the Triton College Board of Trustees.

Nurse Pinning Ceremony

Twelve nursing graduates received their nurse pin to signify their entry into the nursing profession and their commitment to providing quality care to patients.

A tradition at Triton College, the Nurse Pinning Ceremony held May 16 took place in Triton's Performing Arts Center. The nursing graduates entered the auditorium to Andra Day's, *Rise Up*, wearing white coats and each holding a lighted candle. The ceremony included speeches by nursing graduates Whitney Castle of Norridge and Andrea Morales of Northlake.

"The nurse pin means I've accomplished something I always wanted to do," said Castle. "It shows that career change and growth do not have a time or age limit."

For Morales, the pin serves as "a reminder of all the sacrifices I made," she said, adding that the instructors at Triton "are amazing. The clinical experience (at Triton) has prepared me to become a nurse."

WEI Completion Ceremony

Students and families gathered May 20 for Triton College's Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Spring 2024 Completion Ceremony held in Triton's Student Center. Of the 117 students who completed the program, 70 students participated in the ceremony.

"The Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI), sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), is a transformative grant program aimed at expediting the entry and success of African-American students in post-secondary education and training programs," said Ronnetta Phillips, MHRD, completion and transition specialist (CTS). "The WEI Grant's core objective is to bridge the gap between education and employment, specifically targeting high-skilled, high-wage and in-demand occupations."

Triton College Hospitality Industry Administration Program

Start Your Career in the Growing Hospitality Industry

As the largest industry in the world, hospitality is witnessing one of the largest growths in the need for skilled workers. According to Chef Denise Smith-Gaborit, chair of Triton College's Hospitality Industry Administration (HIA) Program, "there are jobs galore" – everything from hotel management and culinary arts to menu writing and bartending. The hospitality industry is the second major employer in the United States, with its workforce continuing to expand. For Chef Smith-Gaborit, this surge in job opportunities is "very good news" for students with a passion for hospitality and culinary arts, and a willingness to embrace change.

"As hospitality businesses are welcoming new technologies, enhancing health and safety protocols, and re-envisioning guest services and experiences, Triton offers every degree, certification and license demanded in the hospitality industry today," said Chef Smith-Gaborit. This includes a restaurant management, hotel management, culinary arts, and baking and pastry degree/certificate. Students over the age of 21 can receive their beverage management certificate.

Unlike other culinary schools, Triton has invested in "state-of-the-art classrooms and lab facilities" to prepare students for meeting the growing requirements of the industry, she said, adding that Triton's kitchens and bakeries mirror what is available in the industry now. The college is also modifying its academic offerings and scheduling to better accommodate student needs. "Our program offers flexible scheduling, job assistance and hands-on training. We are making it easier for the student to succeed and ensure they are well prepared for their careers.

Triton offers core programming and, from there, students can branch out according to their interests," said Chef Smith-Gaborit. Triton welcomes students who are new to the industry, as well as students who are looking to maximize their work portfolios and/or advance in their careers.

"As the oldest culinary school in the west suburbs of Chicago, Triton College has been producing quality, skilled people to work all over the world since 1972," said Chef Smith-Gaborit who, in her culinary career, cooked for U.S. presidents, musicians and actors during her tenure in Chicago's elite hoteling industry. Now as a department chair and instructor at Triton, Chef Smith-Gaborit said she "loves" witnessing the creativity of her students. "Students are the joy of my day." Chef Smith-Gaborit has taught at Triton for 27 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in general studies and a degree in restaurant management.

Triton Students in Demand

"After earning a degree and/or certification from Triton College, anyone can walk out the door and find a job in hospitality," said Chef Smith-Gaborit. "Students can also obtain an internship while they're a student so they can gain experience." For years, Triton has fostered industry relationships with some of Chicago's most prestigious hotels and restaurants, making it possible for students to successfully launch their careers. "We also have former students employed in the industry calling our department to offer our students jobs," she said.

Triton's HIA Program is also utilized with high school students involved in the Dual Credit Program, especially those from Oak Park and River Forest High School, Riverside Brookfield High School, Leyden high schools and Proviso high schools. "Our students learn everything here at Triton," said Chef Smith-Gaborit. "They really learn how to cook, from pasta to cakes, and they learn how to do it from scratch." The program stands out with not only the outstanding quality, but operates three businesses available to the public – Café 64, the Bistro and the Bakery. All are student-operated and are open to the public. Triton student Tulip Pham, Berwyn, Illinois, chose to attend Triton over her local community college for the high-value culinary program. She likes that all the instructors are very passionate about the students. "I wanted to go into culinary arts, because I could use my creativity while making people happy," she said. "I like to bake and decorate cakes." Triton student Vanessa Guardiola, Chicago, said she felt particularly inspired after she took Triton College instructor Chef Christopher Clem's chocolate class. "It hooked me," Guardiola said. "One day I'd like to run my own business. Triton offers all the tools for me to receive the licenses and certifications needed to do that."

For more information on the Triton College Hospitality Industry Administration Program, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130.



The Hospitality Industry is projected to experience a

36.6%
growth in employment
over the next decade.

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

You're Invited – Triton College Fall Registration Rally

Ensure a stress-free summer by securing your registration for the fall semester! New and current students are invited to participate in our upcoming registration rally, Wednesday, July 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Welcome Center (B Building), to meet with Admissions representatives, academic advisors and Financial Aid representatives to enroll for fall 2024 classes.

Visit triton.edu/fall or call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130, for more information.

The Triton College Hospitality Industry Administration Program

All the makings of a great career!



Get a Taste of HIA

Hospitality Industry Administration Program
Spotlight Event

Tuesday, July 9

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For more information about this event, go to
triton.edu/visitcampus.



For more information about the
Triton College HIA Program, use
the QR code on the left.

Register Now for Fall
triton.edu/fall



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