

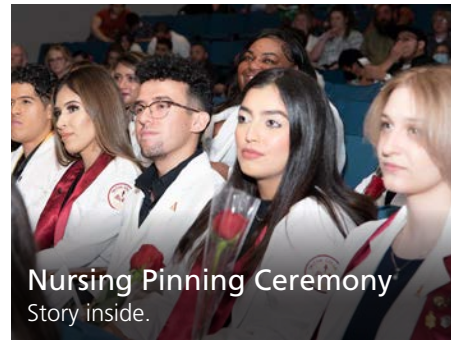


Triton College

# e-CONNECT

An e-newsletter from your community college

Summer 2022



Nursing Pinning Ceremony  
Story inside.

## Triton College Commencement Ceremony Honors Graduates

Blue skies and warm weather greeted Triton College graduates along with friends and family alike at Triton's 2022 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 14.

Held at the Rosemont Theatre, 439 graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.

The Commencement Ceremony began with Heidi Reinhofer singing *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Triton administrators, including Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and Dr. Susan Campos, vice president of Academic Affairs, gave remarks along with Diane Viverito, vice chairwoman of the Triton College Board of Trustees.

Those in the audience were moved by the recognition of all graduating veterans by Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.

"Veterans, we salute you. Your service is a testament of courage,"

she said. "You are part of an honorable group of men and women who have chosen to serve this country."

The program also consisted of a reflection by Triton College Student Association President Jasmin Garcia, as well as a video presentation highlighting several students and their accomplishments throughout the school year.

Graduates such as Stormy Ervin-Bolden, Nakea Blount and Manuel Ruiz have expressed high aspirations having now received their degrees.

Ervin-Bolden of Berkeley received her radiology technology degree and said it feels "great" to finally be done.

"I have two daughters, and I wanted to show them that getting a degree can be accomplished," she said.

"There were many obstacles with having to finish classes online due to COVID, so it feels good to reach this milestone."



For the future, she's trying to focus on taking the boards and work for a year as an X-ray technician.

Nakea Blount of Bellwood was feeling "ecstatic" to be graduating from Triton College.

"I want to be a nurse one day," she said. "We really need nurses right now."

Blount explained that she chose to attend Triton College because she felt like it was convenient and close to home. She said she felt inspired to attend Triton because her mother had attended Triton.

"It's been a long road, but it's been worth it," she said. "I'm going to

Verve College for nursing. I met all of my best friends at Triton."

Northlake resident Manuel Ruiz said graduating felt "really exciting."

"I was a member of the high school class of 2020, and we didn't get to have a graduation," he said. "This feels really special to actually be able to graduate today. The best part about Triton are the teachers and how they are always available. My professors were able to guide us down a good path. I really enjoyed my time at Triton."

Ruiz plans on going into construction management.

# Triton College Hosts 44th Annual GED Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration



Triton College hosted the 44th Annual GED Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration on Saturday, May 21, in the Robert M. Collins Center.

The ceremony honored ESL Program completers, Westlake Health Foundation Scholarship Program completers, Board of Trustees Scholarship recipients, National Adult Education Honor Society inductees and High School Equivalency graduates.

"For us, it's the best day of the year," said Jacqueline Lynch, dean of Adult Education. "All of our graduates have brighter futures ahead of them because of their accomplishments and hard work."

Due to the pandemic, the graduation was the first in-person ceremony in two years for the Adult Education Program with 25 graduates completing Triton's General Educational Development Program.

"The GED graduates receive the full graduation experience," said Lynch. "They're the last ones to walk into the auditorium while everyone is standing. They are able to walk onto the stage and shake President Moore's hand."

Besides the GED graduates, Lynch said the largest single group of graduates were the 61 ESL completers, who received special recognition at the ceremony. Out of those 61 students, 16 were beginner to completer students. These students started the program in the lowest ESL level and completed ESL Level 6.

Others recognized included 12 former Adult Education students who completed their Health Career

Program with the support of the Westlake Health Foundation Scholarship. Eighteen ESL and GED students received the Board of Trustees Scholarship, nine for the first time, nine receiving it for a second year due to a high GPA. Nineteen students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society.

Dr. Susan Campos, vice president of Academic Affairs, said that she was really moved by Dean Lynch's speech regarding the graduation tassels.

"The graduates started the ceremony with their tassel on the right side of their cap, but then they moved it to their left side to signify a new stage in their life," she said. "It truly shows how education changes your life."

Both Dr. Campos and Dean Lynch were inspired by the ceremony's keynote speaker Jennifer Albizures, who received her GED from Triton. Albizures received the Board of Trustees and the Westlake Health Foundation scholarships.

Albizures began her GED Program in 2020, and was nominated and inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society in May of 2021.

Albizures wanted to go back and finish her GED in 2019 after feeling replaceable at work. She felt a GED was ideal to help keep her position.

Going forward, Albizures wants to attend Triton College credit classes to finish her associate degree and become an ophthalmic technician. She said she really loves the Triton atmosphere.

"I feel brand new," she explained. "I knew I had to finish my degree for me. There's a light at the end of the tunnel. I made up my mind that I wanted to finish, because nobody was going to hand it to me, and I had to go out and get it for myself."

GED graduate and Board of Trustee scholar Jakelin Rosas of Bellwood said her sister encouraged her to finish her GED. She feels that Triton gave her the resources needed to graduate, with the teachers pushing her to succeed.

"My sister really motivated me to finish and my two kids inspired me to go that extra mile. I didn't think I was going to be able to do it, but I did,"

said Rosas. "Now I'm trying to decide what I want to do when continuing in my education."

"Students come to the GED Program with diverse educational backgrounds and goals," said Lynch. "Our goal is to support and celebrate their educational and personal achievements."

Lynch said that although these students have faced adversity, they have now completed their GED and are encouraged to continue with their education.

For more information, please contact [adulthoodeducation@triton.edu](mailto:adulthoodeducation@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3513.



## Triton College Nursing Graduates Pinning Ceremony Held in Auditorium



The Triton College nursing graduates pinning ceremony was held on Thursday, May 19, in the Performing Arts Center.

The 34 nursing graduates walked into the auditorium to Beyoncé's *I Was Here* while wearing white coats and each holding a lighted candle.

The ceremony included remarks by Dr. La Trice Finch, Nursing chairperson, as well as nursing graduates Jennifer Paulas, Heba Rubi and Elizabeth Demitro.

"Be the change you want to see in the world," said Demitro during her speech, quoting Mahatma Gandhi.

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

Dr. Finch explained that the pinning ceremony is significant to the nursing graduates, showing that they've met all their requirements to become registered nurses.

Nursing graduates Mica Pring and Heba Rubi each said they wanted to go into nursing to help others.

Pring of Rosemont grew up in the Philippines before attending Triton College. She really enjoyed Triton's Nursing Program and feels "happy" and "relieved" that she is finally finished.

"I wanted to be a nurse because my mom is a nurse," said Pring.

"She was a tremendous influence. I feel like nursing is a rewarding and stable job."

Harwood Heights resident Rubi expressed similar sentiments.

"I like that nursing allows me the ability to help people," she said. "It is really a diverse profession. I'm hoping I can get into labor and delivery. I'm really grateful for Triton College and all of the opportunities it has given me."

Dr. Finch expressed admiration that this group of graduates truly "stuck together" and depended on each other, since they had to complete their degrees during the pandemic.

"This cohort has proven to be extremely flexible and resilient," explained Dr. Finch. "They fought and pushed through every adversity, and made connections that will last a lifetime. They are all very kind and selfless individuals."

Although Triton's Nursing Program is accelerated and therefore difficult, Dr. Finch feels it is feasible if students truly have a passion for nursing.

"It's a hard program, but it's doable," explained Dr. Finch. "We're experiencing a nursing shortage across the country, so we need nurses. As I've watched these students graduate, it gives me hope for the nursing profession."

For more information, please contact [latricefinch@triton.edu](mailto:latricefinch@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3900.

## Triton College Hosts 600 Cars for Second Annual Car Show

Cloudy skies and high winds didn't deter car lovers and others alike from attending Triton College's annual car show on Sunday, May 1. The event brought in more than 600 vehicles, including a mix of classic cars, antique cars, hot rods, muscle cars, trucks and several modern vehicles.

The show, hosted by Triton's Automotive Technology Department and Admissions Department, was held on Triton's east campus near the Technology Building.

Out of the 600 cars, Joe Spata of Inverness won first place with his 1966 Rambler and Bob Colletti of Orland Park won Best Chevy with his 1955 Chevy. The Greater Illinois Region-Classic Car Club of America presented a scholarship valued at \$400 to Shane McDaniel of Broadview for the Automotive Merit Award.

Daniel Lamoureux, assistant director of Triton College's Admissions Office, explained that there was a wide variety of cars for all attendees to enjoy.

"This show literally provides something for everyone," Lamoureux said.

To showcase Triton's Automotive Technology Program, Lamoureux explained that all the auto tech garages were open for display. The Automotive faculty members gave tours and answered questions for those in attendance.

Other festivities included food by Tri Café and Fifty-Four Eleven Empanadas. Car show goers enjoyed music by DJ "Rudy K."

Donna Dyre of Hillside is a member of the Chicagoland Thunderbirds, a group of car lovers who have a deep appreciation of vintage Thunderbirds.

"This is my first car show of the year," Dyre said. "I wasn't able to attend car shows the past few years, so this is very exciting to be out with other members of the Chicagoland Thunderbirds."

Dyre said she was excited to participate since she faced some setbacks the past few years and couldn't participate in any car shows.

"With COVID, I didn't want to be around people since my daughter was pregnant," she explained. "I was also diagnosed with breast cancer, but now I'm cancer free. I am ready to enjoy myself and have some fun at a great school."

Michael Imaoka of Addison, also a member of the Chicagoland Thunderbirds auto club, said, "Triton's car show is my favorite car show." Imaoka participates in around 60 car shows each summer.

"I like that it's free and it's close to my house," he said. "This car show promotes Triton College, so it's for a good cause. Triton is an excellent school."

Many at the show also admired Melrose Park's Tom Bierzychudek's 1959 Cadillac. Bierzychudek noted that he always loved the look of his classic car, but his appreciation for Triton was what led him to participate in the show.

"I took automotive classes at Triton and I really like the Triton community," he said. "This is the first great car show of the season. I truly enjoy the camaraderie and the Triton atmosphere."

For more information, please contact [daniellamoureux@triton.edu](mailto:daniellamoureux@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3690.





# CECHP MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, 6-7 p.m.  
H Building, Room H-124

To register for an information session, please visit [triton.edu/chp](http://triton.edu/chp). For any questions, please call the Continuing Education Office at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500, or email [askce@triton.edu](mailto:askce@triton.edu).

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**RIVERSIDE FARMERS' MARKET**  
Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, 2:30-7 p.m.  
10 Pine Ave., Riverside, IL 60546

**TASTE OF BELLWOOD**  
Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, All Day  
Bellwood Village Hall  
3200 Washington Boulevard, Bellwood, IL 60104

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