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**Triton College**

For immediate release: **May 10, 2024**

**Triton College's School of Continuing Education, Center for Health Professionals, Received the Prestigious "Collaboration Award" from the American Nephrology Nurses Association**



*From left to right – Bessie Baldovino, BSN, RN, CNN; Dean Baron, BSN, RN, CNN; Geraldine Zingraf, DNP, RN, CNN; and Michael Doligosa, manager of Triton's Continuing Education Center for Health Professionals.*

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – The Triton College School of Continuing Education, Center for Health Professionals (CEHP), received the prestigious Collaboration Award from the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA). Triton was presented with the recognition at the ANNA's 2024 Annual Symposium held last month in Orlando, Florida.

In partnership with ANNA, Triton developed the Nephrology Certification Exam Preparation course to assist medical professionals (dialysis technicians and registered nurses) with passing their board certifications. The course provided ANNA with an opportunity to continue its Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Program halted during the pandemic. ANNA had been offering the course consistently since 2008.

“One of the wonderful things about this course is that it provides valuable information for both dialysis nurses and dialysis technicians as they prepare for their respective exams,” said Michael Doligosa, manager of Triton's Continuing Education Center for Health Professionals. “The award

is validation that exam preparation is more than just sitting down and memorizing – it’s a dynamic process where you can learn more effectively by learning together,” said Doligosa, who partnered with ANNA in the program’s development.

With Triton’s well-established Hemodialysis Technician course and its Nursing Program, the ANNA approached Doligosa to see if they could utilize Triton’s space. The collaboration led Triton to converting its Nephrology Certification Exam Preparation class into a formal community college continuing education course, created by ANNA Windy City Chapter member Geraldine Zingraf, DNP, RN, CNN, with assistance from Triton College instructors Dean Baron, BSN, RN, CNN (affiliated with Loyola University Medical Center), and Bessie Baldovino, BSN, RN, CNN.

With Doligosa’s assistance, ANNA constructed a course that met Illinois Continuing Education guidelines and submitted a proposal to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Formal test questions were provided for each section of the class that aligned with the graduating system of Triton. The course was approved in January 2023 and held in April 2023.

The class began with 12 students (10 RNs and two dialysis technicians), who successfully completed the course. One dialysis technician graduated Triton and one RN passed the CDN (Certified Dialysis Nurse) Exam.

The program was repeated in November 2023, with six RNs enrolling in the class. All students plan on taking the certification test within the next six months.

“This course can lay down the foundation for expanding Triton’s Dialysis Technician Program and also sets up sort of a blueprint for collaboration with the community in other health care fields,” said Doligosa. “Maybe this is the first step in the evolution of our CECHP programs and how we tailor our offerings to meet the ever-changing needs of health care.”

“This award gives us more of an opportunity to create different exam prep courses going into the future,” said Katie Rullo, associate dean of Triton College’s Continuing Education Department. “This is a niche area where we give our focus to those on a national scale.”

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## **ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE**

Triton College is an institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs designed for students to realize their career aspirations and effectively compete in a global economy. The college campus spans 110 acres in River Grove, Illinois, holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's exemplary faculty and staff work to provide high-quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 10,000 students each year. Triton College is a member of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://triton.edu/>.