

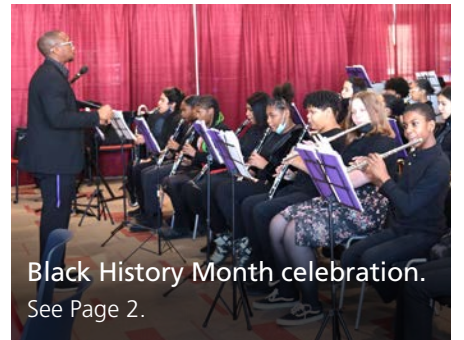


Triton College

CONNECT

An e-newsletter from your community college

February 2023



Black History Month celebration.
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SEED Students Celebrate Program Completion with Graduation

Triton's Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS) held a graduation for students who completed the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) Program, Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Performing Arts Center. The SEED Program works to give students with accommodative needs the opportunity to combine classroom learning with on-the-job experience.

Graduation included heartfelt remarks from staff, as well as students. A video featuring a montage of student interviews and an overview of the program was also shown. The graduation concluded with the SEED students receiving a medallion and certificate to honor their accomplishment. All in attendance were invited to stay and celebrate the occasion with refreshments.

"Don't put limits on yourself. Believe in yourself," said SEED instructor Gary Zimmerman during his graduation remarks. "Believe in your dreams and continue dreaming. When life gets tough, do not worry, because you are tough. You can get through it."

Students in the SEED Program worked hard to reach this milestone, according to Deborah Kaczmarek, director of CAAS. The first 10 weeks of the program consisted of the students learning in the classroom. Students continued their classroom instruction over the next 10 weeks and worked in on-campus jobs. Then, the students performed community work experiences. After completing all three parts of the program, the students were able to graduate.

Kaczmarek also noted that the majority of graduates have registered for spring classes, so they will

continue their education by working on a certificate or degree program at Triton College. One student was offered a part-time job on campus and another was offered a work-study position in Triton's Marketing Department.

"I am so proud of all of our graduates," said Kaczmarek. "Our students have grown up so much. They have learned professionalism at work, as well as how to dress, write their resume and put together a portfolio."

Tyler Rutter, a SEED graduate, worked for the village of Franklin Park while participating in the program. He felt the SEED Program was a fun experience and he's now ready for the next chapter in his life.

"I want to be a therapist," he noted. "I want to get started on my career in psychology."

The SEED Program encourages greater face-to-face instruction, according to Kaczmarek, and provides employment skills such as professionalism, financial

management, social communication, coping skills, job expectations and resume writing. Students have classroom instruction with lectures and hands-on, practical activities. Kaczmarek feels the longer campus employment experience better prepares the students for their community employment.

"The SEED Program helps students gain the skills needed to seek independent community employment through instruction," said Kaczmarek. "We are here to support our students' goals by providing instruction, support and hands-on experiences."

Students interested in enrolling in SEED should inquire about the program at their final high school Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meeting or contact CAAS at caas@triton.edu.

CAAS provides tools for all Triton students, including the Otter software. Otter records lectures that provide a transcript to help students study.



Front row, left to right - Kasumi Trinidad, Aaron Anderson, Janelle Lopez, Bobby Dupree, Robert Delgado and Victor Garcia.
Back row, left to right - Luis Aguilar, John Burley, Tyler Rutter and Peter Malinowski.

Roosevelt Middle School Celebrates Black History Month with a Performance

The Roosevelt Middle School band of Bellwood School District 88 celebrated the start of Black History Month with a special performance at Triton College in the Student Center Cafeteria.

The performance consisted of selections from several African-American composers, with each song receiving a historical introduction of the composer by a Roosevelt student. Visual representation of each composer was shown to the audience.

Songs performed included *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, *Soul Bossa Nova* by Quincy Jones and *Georgia On My Mind* by Ray Charles, among others.

Mr. Clarence Williams, Roosevelt Middle School's band instructor, encouraged the crowd to sing along and cheer.

Williams also read the poem, *What If There Were No Black People in the World*, which highlighted the many inventions and contributions made by notable African Americans.



The Roosevelt Middle School band performed selections from several African-American composers.

Those in attendance included Bellwood School District 88 Superintendent Dr. Victoria Hansen, Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore, families of the band students, community members, and Triton College employees and students. All that were present enjoyed the music, atmosphere and food.

"It's a huge privilege for the Roosevelt Middle School band to perform at Triton College," said Williams. "We stress to our students that it is very important to build community. As musicians, we love performing and giving back."

Welcome to Triton College's New PLUS Lab

Dr. Sheldon Turner, chairperson of Triton College's Science Department, believes that given the right tools and guidance, Triton College students are capable of conducting university-level research. Dr. Turner's commitment to this belief spearheaded the creation of Triton's new Physical and Life Science Undergraduate Student LAB (known as the PLUS Lab), located in Room D-210 (D Building). He's proud that he was able to bring this vision to life on campus.

Unlike a regular classroom that is used only for specific courses, the PLUS Lab is an open space with a modular design that can be easily moved around and utilized for all different types of scientific analysis across science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

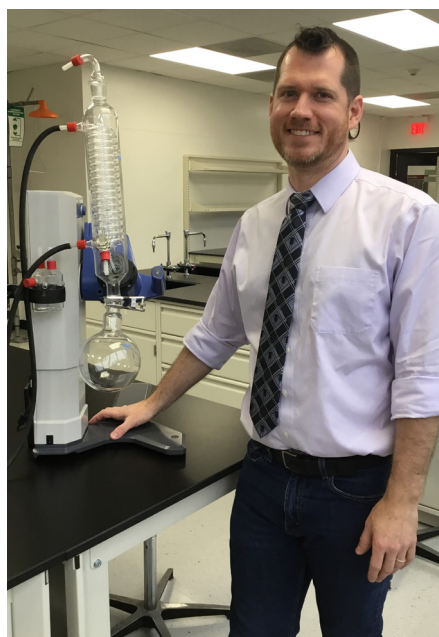
The lab has a 3D printer, 3D scanner, hydroponic equipment, chemical

analysis equipment and more, and can accommodate many other pieces of scientific instrumentation in the future.

"The PLUS Lab offers more than a regular classroom," said Dr. Turner. "It is versatile space and can be used for a variety of projects and research."

Students and staff can reserve the lab for different experiments and projects. Multiple groups can use the lab simultaneously when needed. Students can benefit from this because it allows them to engage in scientific research in a more authentic way.

"The PLUS Lab was approved and built from a campus-innovation award because our students had so much success in research with the GENIUS Program and other projects," Dr. Turner explained. "Our students continued to win conference presentation awards year after year and we realized that we could do amazing things to further our scientific research at Triton College if we had a dedicated lab."



Dr. Sheldon Turner feels the PLUS Lab offers more for science students.

The GENIUS Program (Geo-Engineering Innovations through Undergraduate Scholarship) was a National Science Foundation grant that provided full-ride scholarships, mentoring and research opportunities for low-income, academically gifted students in STEM disciplines.

Over 40 students participated in this program and of the 16 that conducted research and presented at conferences, all of them are continuing careers or transferred to universities in a STEM discipline.

Dr. Turner began teaching at Triton College in the fall of 2015 as a full-time faculty member in geology and environmental science. He currently teaches earth science, physical geology, evolution of the earth and environmental geology, and has proudly served as the department chair since January 2022.

Growing up nearby in Rockford, Ill., his family liked to go hiking in Rock Cut, Matthiessen and Starved Rock state parks, and he fondly remembers visiting natural history and science museums. Turner's love of science came at an early age.

Dr. Turner attended Beloit College Wisconsin and majored in geology and physics. He attended Michigan State University for his Ph.D. in geological science with a specialization in environmental science and policy.

Alumni Andy Hock Appointed Elmwood Park Police Chief

Andrew Hock was appointed police chief for the Elmwood Park Police Department on Saturday, Jan. 7, and sworn in on Monday, Jan. 9, at an Elmwood Park board meeting.

"I feel honored to have this title," said Hock, who is well known as "Andy."

Growing up in Elmwood Park, Hock dreamed in his youth of becoming a police officer.

"When I was in kindergarten, I would wave to the police officers as they drove past my house," remembers Hock. "I always looked up to the Elmwood Park police officers. I knew I wanted to have a career in law enforcement."



Triton alum Andrew "Andy" Hock is Elmwood Park's newest police chief.

Hock attended St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary School, graduating in 1979, and Fenwick High School, graduating in 1983. After high school, he attended Triton College and finished his degree later in his police career.

In 1995, Hock began his career with the Elmwood Park Police Department,

working his way up the ranks from patrolman, detective, sergeant, commander and then to deputy chief, a position which he held for the past 12 years.

Hock decided to finish his degree at Triton College while he was a sergeant and recognizes that it gave him an advantage to advance his career within the Elmwood Park Police Department. After receiving his associate degree in criminal justice administration in 2003, he was promoted from sergeant to commander.

"My degree from Triton impacted me directly – I was selected and promoted," he noted. "I earned that position over others who applied."

After Triton, Hock graduated from Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in 2007.

Throughout a career in law enforcement, Hock has been recognized for his hard work and determination with many awards.

As the new police chief, Hock hopes to develop a stronger bond between

the community and the police, in conjunction with community policing, a full circle moment that helps him reflect on the fact that he's living his childhood dream as the chief of the Elmwood Park Police Department.

"There are a lot of different initiatives that the Elmwood Park Police Department is working on to further reduce crime," he said.

In addition to being a police officer, Hock is involved with many different community organizations, such as the River Grove Lions Club, Elmwood Park Kiwanis Club, UNICO Chicago West Suburban, West Suburban Chiefs of Police Association, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, West Suburban Detectives Association, West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force and St. Vincent Ferrer Parish. He also serves as the president of the Triton College Alumni Association Council and as a Triton College Foundation board member, that supports charitable initiatives and scholarships across the college.

Cernan Earth and Space Center's 50th Anniversary Celebration Receives Accolades in Public Feedback

The Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center's 50th anniversary celebration of Capt. Eugene "Gene" Cernan's Apollo 17 Mission has received positive feedback from the Triton district and beyond, attracting a wide variety of visitors.

The celebration began Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, and runs through Saturday, April 8, 2023. Admission to the exhibit is free.

The most exciting exhibit is the lunar sample, also known as a moon rock, actually collected during Capt. Cernan's Apollo 17 NASA Mission in 1972. The moon rock is encased within a lucite pyramid and sits atop a lighted pedestal for public viewing.

"Many visitors remark how the "moon rock" looks like a charcoal briquette," noted Kris McCall, director of the Cernan Earth and Space Center. "They don't expect it to be almost

black, but that's because this sample came from one of the dark areas on the lunar surface which was filled in by ancient lava flows."

Wayne Foster, one of the Cernan Center's Planetarium Educators, said a favorite exhibit among elementary students is the interactive game "Colonize Mars," which is a flat-touch-screen table and has become a permanent addition to the Cernan Earth and Space Center. Multiple users can work to develop a colony on Mars through several stages of objectives. Players can work individually or together to build their colony as quickly as possible.

The anniversary celebration has received positive feedback within the media, as well. *Space and Things* podcast host David Giles, of England, recently visited and praised the Cernan Center for promoting the 50th anniversary Apollo 17 trip in his



Students from Sam Rotolo Middle School in Batavia admire the moon rock.

What Makes a Good Space Museum episode. Listeners were encouraged to visit the Cernan Center and experience the celebration.

In addition to the exhibits, visitors can travel *Forward! To the Moon* by viewing this special Planetarium

production and discover plans to take new steps to the lunar surface in the coming years. Audiences are also invited to experience *Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon Cosmic Light Show* during March and April.



CAR SHOW



Sunday, April 30, 2023 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Triton College East Campus

Check out dozens of hot rods, classic cars and big rigs,
 then take a tour of Triton's incredible Automotive Technology facilities.

For more information, go to triton.edu/carshow.

In case of inclement weather, alternate date will be May 7.

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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