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For immediate release: **Aug. 31, 2023**

Triton College SEED Students Celebrate Program Completion with Graduation



From left to right – Chase Turner, Francisco Carrillo, David Goff, Renee Piagentini, Marissa Bloodgood, Deshaan Johnson, Jazmin Gutierrez, Ramon Gonzalez and Luis Beteta.

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS) held a graduation for 11 students who completed the Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) Program on Thursday, Aug. 17, in the Performing Arts Center (R Building).

The graduation consisted of several speeches, with the graduates receiving a medallion and certificate at the end of the ceremony. All were invited to stay and enjoy refreshments and cake with the attendees.

Students in the SEED Program have worked hard to reach this milestone, according to Dominique Dial, director of CAAS. The first 10 weeks of the program consisted of the students learning in the classroom. Students continued classroom instruction for 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.

Dial also noted that some of the graduates have registered for fall classes, so they will continue their education by working on a certificate or degree program at Triton College. Others are enrolled in various programs outside of Triton.

Marissa Bloodgood, a SEED graduate, felt very proud to be participating in the ceremony. Bloodgood said she learned how to take the bus from her Brookfield home to Triton, which helped her gain independence.

“My dream is to continue on to Elmhurst University,” she noted. “My advice for other SEED students is to never give up.”

The SEED Program allows greater face-to-face instruction, according to Colleen Malinowski, the SEED coordinator, and provides employment skills, such as professionalism, financial management, social communication, coping skills, job expectations and resume writing. Students have classroom instructions with lectures and hands-on, practical activities. Malinowski feels the longer campus employment experience better prepares the students for their community employment.

“What makes us stand out is that we’re a small group, so we’re like a family,” said Dial.

Those interested in enrolling in SEED should inquire about the program at their final high school Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meeting and fill out a form to apply.

CAAS provides tools for all Triton students, including the Kurzweil software. Kurzweil is a text-to-speech software that allows individuals to have various materials read out loud. It doesn’t matter whether the material is online or in print, it can be made accessible.

For more information, please contact caas@triton.edu or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3917.

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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/>.