



Triton College

For immediate release: June 27, 2023

Triton College's GED Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration Commemorated Adult Education Students

GED Graduates, ESL Completers, Among Others Celebrated



RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's Adult Education Department hosted their 45th Annual GED Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration on Thursday, June 8, in the Robert M. Collins Center (R Building), commemorating the accomplishments of 112 Triton's Adult Education students.

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

"For us, it's the best day of the year," said Dr. Jacqueline Lynch, dean of Adult Education. "Our graduates, completers, scholars and inductees have bright futures ahead of them. We are very proud of their accomplishments."

The 14 students who completed Triton's General Educational Development (GED) Program were given the full graduation experience by walking into the auditorium with their caps and gowns to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance*.

Besides the GED graduates, Dr. Lynch said the largest single group of graduates were the 51 ESL completers, who received special recognition at the ceremony. Dr. Lynch proudly noted that the students represented 18 countries and spoke seven different languages.

Other recognitions included nine former Adult Education students who completed their Health Career Program with the support of the Westlake Health Foundation Scholarship.

Nine ESL and GED students received Board of Trustees Scholarships and 29 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 Dr. Lynch's speech regarding the graduation tassels.

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

Both Dr. Campos and Dr. Lynch were inspired by the ceremony's keynote speaker Juan Silva-Castro of Franklin Park, who recently completed the GED Program at Triton.

Silva-Castro began taking classes at Triton when he first moved to Franklin Park in the fall of 2022. He wanted to learn how to do electrical work around his house, and thought Triton was a convenient and friendly atmosphere to take electronic classes.

"My advisors at Triton told me that I could obtain a GED with all of the classes I was taking," he explained. "It was a no-brainer. I instantly fell in love with the campus."

Silva-Castro plans on continuing his education at Triton and wants to eventually earn a bachelor's degree. He hopes to inspire his adult daughters, Lilly and Allie.

"I want to go as far as I can," he said.

"Students come to our programs with diverse educational backgrounds and goals," said Dr. Lynch. "Our goal is to support them as they move along their individual pathway even after they exit from the program. We are honored to be their education partner."

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

###

Media Contact

Maryann Pisano
Staff Writer

maryannpisano@triton.edu
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3202

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/>.