



# Triton College NEWS

## Aspen Institute Names Triton as a Top 200 U.S. Community College Eligible for the 2027 Aspen Prize

Triton College is proud to announce that it has been named one of the 200 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence – the nation's premier recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges.

The 200 colleges were selected based on their student outcomes data, including retention, completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment rates. Started in 2010, this is the ninth cycle of the Aspen Prize.

Together, these 200 colleges represent the breadth and diversity of the community college sector. They are located in urban, rural and suburban areas across the country and serve anywhere from a few hundred students to tens of thousands. Some of these colleges focus primarily on workforce programs, while others focus on transfer and bachelor's attainment or a combination of the two.

"The Aspen Prize rewards colleges that achieve the kind of outcomes that actually matter to students – completing college degree programs that, in turn, lead to lifelong success," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Aspen Prize winners offer a powerful message: Community colleges can deliver the kind of life-changing education that makes the American Dream real."

Community colleges educate nearly 6 million students. Yet community college student outcomes fall short in both the rate at which students graduate and the percentage of students who achieve success after graduation. The Aspen Prize process identifies and celebrates community colleges that demonstrate that achieving stronger outcomes is possible, providing a roadmap of effective practices and strategies for other colleges to follow.

The 200 eligible colleges have been invited to submit an application and participate in a rigorous review process that will culminate in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in spring 2027. Over the coming 20 months, the colleges that apply for the Aspen Prize will be assessed based on (1) student outcomes data, ranging from student transfer and completion rates to employment and wages after graduation, and (2) whether they have engaged in scaled practices that led to high and improving student outcomes.

"Among these 200 colleges are some really special places that deliver strong and improving outcomes for students across the board," Wyner said. "Our job over the coming 20 months is to gather a lot more data and work with a deep

bench of field experts to assess which of these 200 stand out so we can not only honor them with a monetary award, but draw attention to the most effective field practices that other colleges can replicate."

This is the first time since the inception of the Aspen Prize that 200 colleges are eligible to apply, growing from 150. This year, in addition to publicly available federal data, over 600 colleges authorized the use of National Student Clearinghouse data on their institution's degree completion, transfer, and bachelor's attainment rates for full- and part-time students.

Since its founding in 1964, Triton College has remained steadfast in its mission of educating and serving the community. Through its welcoming learning environment, affordable tuition and open admission policy, the institution has expanded the accessibility of post-secondary education for residents across its district. For more information, visit [triton.edu](http://triton.edu). The full list of eligible community colleges can be accessed at [highered.aspeninstitute.org](http://highered.aspeninstitute.org).

## Triton Prepares and Distributes 1,000 Thanksgiving Meals to Students and Local Families

Just ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, Triton College's Hospitality Industry Administration Program undertook an extraordinary effort to prepare and distribute 1,000 Thanksgiving meals to students and families in the community.

After many hours of prep work, cooking and packaging holiday meals in Triton College's Hospitality Kitchen, Chef Manuel "Manny" Uribe, Culinary Arts faculty, and his team of students delivered about 500 meals to Troy Mart to support students. The remaining 500 meals were distributed to local food pantries in advance of the holiday.

Under the direction of Chef Manny, HIA students are applying their training in large-scale meal planning, preparation and service, while giving back to the community. The packaged meals contained all the holiday essentials, including roast turkey, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, and corn.

While Chef Manny is coordinated this generous operation, he said the idea originated from his students.

"The students wanted to do it, and I made it happen with the participation of our fellow faculty and admin team," he said. "There's a need out there, and that was something felt by the students and myself."

Chef Manny especially thanked the Triton College Faculty Association for its significant contribution to the initiative, as well as Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and others across the campus community who supported the effort.

Chef Manny said he and his students felt it was important to support the student body and address food insecurity. Emphasizing Triton College's role as a community college and servant of the community, he added that they also felt it imperative to feed Triton's neighbors as well.

"For many, Thanksgiving is a time to look forward to a home-cooked meal with friends and loved ones," he said. "But the reality is that not everyone is fortunate enough to enjoy a meal or the company to share it with. No one should be hungry on Thanksgiving. That's really the idea behind this effort and we're thankful to be able to give back."

Learn more about Triton College's Hospitality Industry Administration Program by visiting [triton.edu/hia](http://triton.edu/hia).



## During This Season of Giving, Please Consider the Triton College Foundation for Your Year-End Plans ...

Your helping hand means a lot and together we can do some amazing things for our students!

The Foundation works to provide funding for scholarships, new programs and services, equipment and books, and helps maintain and operate Triton College facilities – benefitting the thousands of students and community members who visit the campus every day.

Visit [www.triton.edu/foundation/pledge](http://www.triton.edu/foundation/pledge) and make a contribution to the fund of your choice.

For more information, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or send an email to [tcfoundation@triton.edu](mailto:tcfoundation@triton.edu).

## Triton College FOUNDATION

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