

A new academic year offers the campus community an opportunity to improve on efforts to offer quality education in the pursuit of our strategic mission. This year, and many years thereafter, our collective efforts will lead Triton on a journey to create a welcoming environment that embraces efforts to advance educational opportunity throughout the communities we serve. Over the course of the last year, I've heard the desire from many to come together to discuss issues surrounding diversity and equity. During the summer, I along with the leadership team have taken meaningful steps to move us forward.

We have learned from a number of workshops and educational sessions that at the heart of any plan is meaningful conversation. This fall, we will hold listening sessions facilitated by an external consultant for Triton College students and employees to share their experiences, concerns and recommendations for creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus. The external consultant, with expertise in diversity, equity and inclusion, will work with us in creating and implementing strategies, structures, policies and opportunities that grow an inclusive and equitable environment, and will hopefully lead us to an improvement in our delivery of an outstanding education to each and every Triton student.

Alongside these listening sessions, we will also be engaging in a comprehensive effort to develop guided pathways for our students. A guided pathways model holds real promise for enhancing the college experience and building our institutional capacity to greatly improve student outcomes, which I am sure we all agree is of utmost importance.

Derrell Carter, our AVP of Communication & Institutional Advancement, will serve as the Cabinet liaison for equity and inclusion. He will work with institutional committees and appropriate stakeholders to understand and communicate key issues from employees and students; research best practices among community college peers; and engage Cabinet/leadership in discussions for planning and the integration of data and college-wide input.

I am asking the Triton College community to join me in making diversity, equity and inclusion a priority. As an institution of access and support, we can more fully embrace and value the unique needs and experiences of the diverse groups so important to our campus culture.

**President Moore**