

Tri-C[®] TIMES

THE FORCE OF WORKFORCE TRAINING

Sending
people to work
is still part
of Tri-C's
core mission



KeyBank Foundation Grant Seeks to Increase
Public Safety Training Center Graduates

Student Photographer Gives
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Message from
the President

At Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®), we believe that everyone deserves access to education that leads to a productive career. As the country struggles to regain its economic pace, more and more businesses are turning to community colleges to help fill gaps in the workforce. Now more than ever, we are poised to make a real difference in the lives of the students we serve by preparing them for in-demand jobs that offer family-sustaining wages.

To that end, Tri-C recently established two new centers of excellence, the Center for Information Technology and the Manufacturing Technology Center, to leverage the strength of existing academic and workforce programming to enhance career and educational opportunities for our students. These centers combine degrees and technical certificates to present integrated, clear pathways to completion and stackable credentials that enable students to advance in their careers.

Post-secondary certificates such as those offered by Tri-C's Workforce, Community and Economic Development division are the fastest-growing credentials today, with two-year institutions such as Tri-C awarding more than 90 percent of the 1 million certificates earned each year in the United States. Studies have shown that the first-year earning potential of some certificate holders equals or exceeds the earnings of those with bachelor's degrees.

Increasing the number of post-secondary certificates is essential to fill workforce skill gaps and to help communities thrive. At Tri-C, the number of workforce certificates awarded increased by 15 percent from 2013 to 2015. Another 17 percent increase is projected by 2017.

Tri-C created all of these new initiatives in the interest of student success, both academically and in the workplace. The citizens of Northeast Ohio rely on Tri-C to prepare them for their futures through sustainable careers, while employers rely on us to provide them with the best and brightest talent. By meeting the needs of both groups, we can truly effect lasting change in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
President



Tri-C Times is published by the Cuyahoga Community College Integrated Communications department for its friends and constituents. Feedback and story ideas are welcome. Send correspondence to *Tri-C Times*, 2500 E. 22nd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44115, call 216-987-4322, or email editorial@tri-c.edu.

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Corporate College® West
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Hospitality Management Center of Excellence
at Public Square
180 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Jerry Sue Thornton Center
2500 E. 22nd St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Metropolitan Campus
2900 Community College Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Tommy LiPuma Center
for Creative Arts
2809 Woodland Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Truck Driving Academy
Heritage Business Park
23555 Euclid Ave., Suite 105
Euclid, Ohio 44117

Unified Technologies Center
2415 Woodland Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Western Campus
11000 Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, Ohio 44130

Westshore Campus
31001 Clemens Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145

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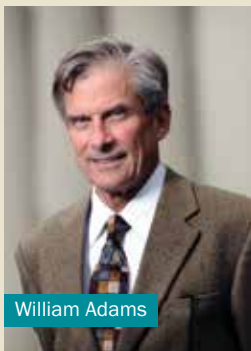
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Chairman of National Endowment for the Humanities to Serve as Keynote Speaker at Tri-C Forum

MAY EVENT CAPS FIRST SEMESTER AT THE JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL HUMANITIES CENTER

William Adams, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will serve as keynote speaker at the first community forum hosted by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel



William Adams

Humanities Center at Cuyahoga Community College. Adams will headline the May 5-6 event at the Mandel Humanities Center, located at the College's Eastern Campus in Highland Hills. Tri-C announced his visit in conjunction with the start of classes at the center.

"The National Endowment for the Humanities has enriched America's public discourse for 50 years," said Lauren Onkey, chair and dean of the Mandel Humanities Center. "We are honored that chairman Adams will join us as we examine how humanities education can improve our community and create tomorrow's leaders."

The community forum in May will serve as the capstone to the first semester of study by the center's inaugural class of Mandel Scholars. These Tri-C students will work in partnership with The City Club of Cleveland to organize the event to address key Northeast Ohio issues.

Tri-C launched the Mandel Humanities Center to offer a unique liberal arts learning environment and cultivate civically responsible citizens to lead the region toward a stronger future. The goal is for the center to become a national model for addressing community concerns through the lens of the liberal arts.

To learn more about the Mandel Humanities Center and the May forum, go to www.tri-c.edu or call 216-987-2601.

Michael Huff Named General Manager/Dean of Hospitality Management Center

Michael Huff joined Tri-C Feb. 1 as general manager/dean of the Hospitality Management Center of Excellence. Huff, a longtime resident and enthusiast of Northeast Ohio, brings a broad spectrum of experience and education in the hospitality management industry.



Michael Huff

Huff began his academic journey at Mesa Community College and went on to earn a bachelor's in marketing and an MBA from Arizona State University. He worked his way up through the hospitality industry and has held several executive-level positions over the past 15 years. Most recently, he served as the general manager of special events and fine dining for Bon Appetit Management at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Prior positions include director of food and beverage operations at Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, for the Sage Group at Crowne Plaza City Center and for Hilton Hotels in Boston, Mass. and Beachwood, Ohio.



Tri-C Women's Cross Country Team Honored for Academic Accomplishments

FOUR RUNNERS NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

The women's cross country team at Cuyahoga Community College has been recognized as a 2015 Academic Team of the Year by the NJCAA Cross Country Coaches Association.

Tri-C runners studied their way to a 3.653 grade-point average during fall semester, ranking 13th out of more than 200 National Junior College Athletic Association schools competing across the country.

Four members of the team — Karen Barrientos (Ashtabula), Maria Curren (Marion, Ohio), Amber Ruiz-Bueno (Willowick) and Katie Piar (Medina) — earned Academic All-American honors.

"Nothing makes me prouder than the team earning these honors," Tri-C head coach Don Cox said. "Success does not come by accident, and our student-athletes work hard for all they achieve."

The Challengers performed well outside of the classroom, too, as Tri-C made its 15th consecutive appearance in the national championships.

CRITICAL NEED *for Protective Service Personnel*

KeyBank Foundation Awards \$1.4 Million to Tri-C Foundation to Expand College's Public Safety Training Programs

Employment projections for Northeast Ohio show a critical need for protective service personnel, with nearly 1,500 job openings expected each year through 2022.

A new grant from the KeyBank Foundation awarded to the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation will help the College serve the community's needs in these areas by enhancing and expanding its public safety education and training programs.

The \$1.4 million grant will support high-quality training for students pursuing careers as law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and other in-demand public safety occupations in Northeast Ohio.

"KeyBank and KeyBank Foundation have a long history of supporting Cuyahoga Community College programs that are designed to build a thriving workforce," said Margot Copeland, chair and CEO of the KeyBank Foundation. "The enhanced public safety education and training programs will benefit from structured career pathways that lead to college credentials, job placement and long-term job retention. With this investment, we're educating a workforce dedicated to helping build safe and thriving neighborhoods throughout Cuyahoga County."

The initiative includes funding for scholarship opportunities and a campaign to recruit minority and female candidates for first-responder jobs as



The goal of the grant is to increase the annual number of graduates from Tri-C's Public Safety Training Center by 35 percent over a four-year period.



The KeyBank Foundation has awarded the Tri-C Foundation a grant to enhance and expand the College's public safety education and training programs.

well as outreach programs to U.S. military veterans and the creation of a youth-focused summer academy.

The goal of the grant is to increase the annual number of graduates from Tri-C's Public Safety Training Center by 35 percent over a four-year period. Larger increases are targeted for minorities (54 percent) and women (97 percent).

To better connect these public safety graduates with employers, Tri-C will create an outreach specialist position to oversee student, employer and community engagement.

"Generous support from the KeyBank Foundation will enable Cuyahoga Community College to expand its public safety training program to meet local workforce needs," said Alex Johnson, Tri-C president. "The partnership between KeyBank and Cuyahoga Community College has increased completion of higher education, helping to enhance the future of our community."

Tri-C opened its new Public Safety Training Center at Western Campus in Parma in 2014. The regional center offers specialized training opportunities for police, fire and emergency medical technicians.

Located on a 10-acre site in Parma and Parma Heights, the center includes state-of-the-industry training tools such as a two-story burn building, an indoor shooting range, a paved area to learn driving techniques and an above-ground trench training area to practice confined-space rescues.

The KeyBank Foundation has been a long-term partner of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, providing a lasting impact on the region through workforce initiatives and scholarship programs providing opportunities for thousands of community members.

"The partnership between KeyBank and Cuyahoga Community College has increased completion of higher education, helping to enhance the future of our community."

— Alex Johnson, president, Cuyahoga Community College



PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

LOCATED ON THE WESTERN CAMPUS

The 37,000-square-foot, 10-acre facility is designed for academic and tactical fire, police, emergency medical and rescue operation training.

PROGRAMS:

- Basic Police Academy
- Private Security Academy
- Fire Academy
- Law Enforcement Advanced Training
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services Advanced Training

For information on specific programs, visit www.tri-c.edu/publicsafety or www.tri-c.edu/pstc.

the **FORCE** of **WORKFORCE** TRAINING

Sending people to work is still part of Tri-C's core mission

Sylvester Byers had spent the better part of his working days — 22 years to be exact — as a compounding processor at L'Oreal in Solon. But when the company pulled up stakes to move to Kentucky, Byers decided not to follow. He had family here. He had a home here. He felt settled. He didn't want to move.

Byers was 49 years old, an age at which leaving what you know can be scary. However, he had a plan.

Byers enjoyed working on computers, so he signed up for some courses.

"I started researching different schools for CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate), then I heard about the Cisco program at Tri-C and how it was hands-on," Byers said. "Here — day one — you are touching the actual equipment. You get to see what a switch is, what a router is. You put it on a computer. You work with it, and you work as a team."

At 50 years old, Byers is one of the new faces of workforce training at Cuyahoga Community College.

THE NEW BLUE COLLAR

Think of workforce training, and lunch pails and sooty factories might come to mind. But many of today's programs train workers for highly technical fields. Those seeking training may be looking to enter the workforce for the first time, or they may be reinventing themselves at a late stage in their careers.

"Our main focus is addressing the generational needs of the workforce," said Alicia Booker, vice president of manufacturing at Tri-C. "We are establishing a talent pipeline. We need younger people in certain sectors, and we have older, skilled workers transitioning to health care and IT."





“I heard about the Cisco program at Tri-C and how it was hands-on. Here — day one — you are touching the actual equipment.”

– Sylvester Byers

Sylvester Byers



Brant Lally

“There is conventional machining, but this machining is more computer-based. It mixes the old with the new.”

– Brant Lally

started the classes, it fit with what I knew already. There is a technology side to it, too. There is conventional machining, but this machining is more computer-based. It mixes the new and old.”

Lally finished the program and now works as a CNC machine operator at Swagelok.

REVERSE ENGINEERING

Booker spends a lot of time meeting with representatives of local businesses, assessing what workforce talent they need and how Tri-C can deliver it. This results in unique programs with a laser focus on the skills needed by Northeast Ohio workers.

Some programs result in stackable certifications, like the CISCO training Byers completed. Others are targeted at sectors of the population, like senior citizens or those who have run afoul of the law and need a new start.

Tri-C’s Workforce, Community and Economic Development division offers workforce training in health care; information technology; advanced manufacturing and engineering; truck driving and logistics; and public safety.

“We are training for what a job will look like in five years,” Booker said. “Industry is so fast-moving. Technology changes everything so fast.”

She said the legacy of workforce training sometimes makes its modern incarnation a tough sell, even though many of these programs result in jobs that offer sustaining wages. Those who complete Right Skills Now, for example, can expect to earn \$15-\$16 per hour, according to Swagelok. Median pay for computer support specialists in 2014

Byers is part of the latter group.

“At first, I was scared,” he said, “but I knew this was what I had to do. You have to come in there ready to study. You really have to focus on it. The coursework is so detailed.”

He finished his CCNA and CCENT (Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician) certifications along with CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications. Now he wants to earn CCNA security and wireless certifications, and he has already finished the coursework.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

Brant Lally is 22 and recently finished Tri-C’s Right Skills Now program. He had worked for five years as a sheet metal fabricator, a job his father helped him into following high school, but it didn’t suit his style.

“We actually went on site and installed things, so there was a lot of weather. I don’t like being out in the cold or out when it’s really hot,” Lally said.

His mother alerted him to the Tri-C program, which usually results in a job at Swagelok following completion of the coursework and an internship. Lally was interested, and then one day, providence nudged him.

“My last day on the job, I cut my finger really bad and I had to go to the hospital. I had to get a bunch of stitches. I had to do some therapy on my finger,” Lally said. “And this was right before the Right Skills Now program started. That pretty much made my decision for me.”

He enrolled in Right Skills Now not long after.

“Doing five years of working with sheet metal, I had that knowledge base behind me,” Lally said. “So when I

was \$50,380, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In addition, the kinds of jobs Tri-C workforce training prepares students for are not as subject to market fluctuations as some “white collar” jobs.

Booker has worked in workforce development for 25 years. “What’s really changed is the interest,” she said. Northeast Ohio has strong health care and IT workforce opportunities, and these are correspondingly popular programs at the College.

The College awarded 1,302 certificates in fiscal year 2015, up from 599 in fiscal year 2014.

“Cleveland has a diverse workforce, and everyone is in it at the same time. Young people are not finding the same pathways into it that their parents had,” Booker said.

Byers can relate. His son, Sylvester Jr., is enrolled at Tri-C’s Eastern Campus.

“I tell my kids, ‘You don’t want to be like this.’ I took a job in manufacturing, and it was paying good, so I just stayed there. I stayed because it was comfortable,” Byers said. “Now, here I am at a later age and I have to go back to school. I have to buckle down, just focus on the school and get it done.”

WHAT’S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

While workforce training allowed Byers to break the complacency cycle, it helped Lally avoid it. He said he knows he is in the right place at Swagelok. “I’m indoors,” he said. “It’s nice.

“I grew up in Solon, and Swagelok is a great company. I had heard so much good about them that I wanted to go there.”

Lally said that he also would like to grow there. He plans to go back to college — possibly Kent State University — to earn a bachelor’s in engineering.

In May 2015, the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission hired Byers. He is now the guy county workers call when their computers are giving them grief.

He loves it.

“I can’t see myself anywhere else,” Byers said. He enjoys solving problems and likes the people he works with. “They like me, too, because they say the last IT guy talked down to them. You go around and you laugh and talk and work with people.

“I tell everybody every day that it took me 50 years to be able to say that I love my job. There are some nights I can’t sleep because I can’t wait to get there.”

THE **WORKFORCE**, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

HEALTH CARE

- State-Tested Nursing Assistant
- Patient Care Nursing Assistant
- Home Health Aide Professional
- Comprehensive Patient Access Specialist
- Medical Coding and Billing
- Community Health Worker
- Continuing Education for Healthcare Professionals
- Continuing Education for Dental Professionals

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Computer Essentials
- Cisco Technical Training Institute
- Computer Programming
- Cyber Security Analytics Certificate
- Database Administration
- IT Service and Support Technician
- Microsoft Office Training
- Net Developer Cohort
- Network Administration and Support
- Technical Communication
- Web Design

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING

- 3D Digital Design and Manufacturing Technology
- Skilled Construction Trades
- First Energy Power Systems Institute
- Industrial Maintenance
- Industrial Welding
- Precision Machining
- Auto CAD and Solidworks
- Computer Numerical Control (CNC)
- Manufacturing Technical Readiness
- Nondestructive Testing
- Steelworker for the Future
- Quality Assurance
- Right Skills Now

TRUCK DRIVING AND LOGISTICS

- Class A CDL Truck Driver Training
- Class B CDL Accelerated Training
- Passenger and School Bus Training
- Powered Industrial Truck/Forklift Operator Training
- Hazardous Materials



PUBLIC SAFETY

- Basic Police Academy
- EMS Advanced Training
- Fire Advanced Training
- Fire Training Academy
- Firefighter Physical Agility Testing
- Law Enforcement Advanced Training
- Private Security Academy



Paula DiFrancesco



GIVING
EXPOSURE TO

AUTISM

Mother's
photography
documents daily
challenges

Distance sometimes helps us see things more clearly. A Nikon camera lens has helped Cuyahoga Community College student photographer Paula DiFrancesco back up just far enough to capture the beauty of her twin sons with autism.

DiFrancesco started taking photography classes in 2014 as a part-time student at Tri-C. Her first goal was simply to make better images with her digital camera. Then she began to understand that photography could be used in different ways. It can tell a story.

"I used to go for beautiful landscapes, the lake, sunsets," said DiFrancesco. Now, she said, she doesn't aim for stereotypical beauty. "It's not about posing. The picture tells something to the viewer."



**“IT’S NOT ABOUT POSING.
THE PICTURE TELLS SOMETHING
TO THE VIEWER.”**

– Paula DiFrancesco

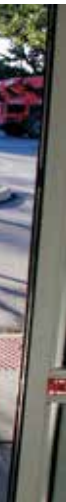


In fall of 2015, associate professor Jonathan Wayne assigned his Photography III students a project that required them to create a collection of images on a single topic. The idea, he said, was to enhance their understanding of the photographic process by returning to a subject over an extended period of time.

DiFrancesco chose 8-year-olds Lelio and Leonardo. Lights of her life, the twins also present her with some of the biggest challenges a parent can know.

The twins’ developmental problems started to become apparent around the time they turned 3. They didn’t speak, and they engaged hand flapping and other repetitive motions. They didn’t make eye contact or want to play with others. Friends tried to reassure DiFrancesco and her husband that everything was normal, but she knew better.

Soon they were diagnosed with autism and began intervention therapies. Before long, experts advised that the autism was profound and that more intensive treatments would be necessary.



“MY PROJECT WAS ABOUT TAKING PICTURES OF MY BOYS AS THEY ARE – AUTISTIC, BUT BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE.”

Adjusting to this was difficult, DiFrancesco said. “We always have expectations about our children — when they’re going to be potty trained, when they’re going to have friends over.” Now, they had to toss those expectations aside and adjust to goals governed by a new reality.

Today, the boys are enrolled in an autism program in their Cleveland Heights school. They don’t speak, but they are learning to communicate with pictures on an iPad. There are temper tantrums, too, and it’s easy for the boys to hurt themselves. As they’ve gotten bigger, controlling such episodes gets harder. So DiFrancesco and her husband continue working with experts and therapists, and they try to evolve as their sons do. Every new phase of their life brings a new learning curve, she said.

When she started photographing them for her project, DiFrancesco noticed that the camera gave

her a new way to become absorbed in her sons. Without the camera, she said, “I try to hide myself.” The lens allows her to see the boys in a new way, and she can share that vision with others so they can better understand autism and the fact that her sons are more than just autistic.

“My project was about taking pictures of my boys as they are,” she said. “Autistic, but beautiful and unique, as any other child.”

And her project succeeded, Wayne said. “She has built on the successive classes she has taken to capture a meaningful body of work that has a great awareness of light and composition. Physical, cognitive or emotional challenges are present in everyone’s family in one form or another. Seeing Paula’s images may foster empathy in others in ways that she will never know. It’s one of the truly amazing things about photography.”

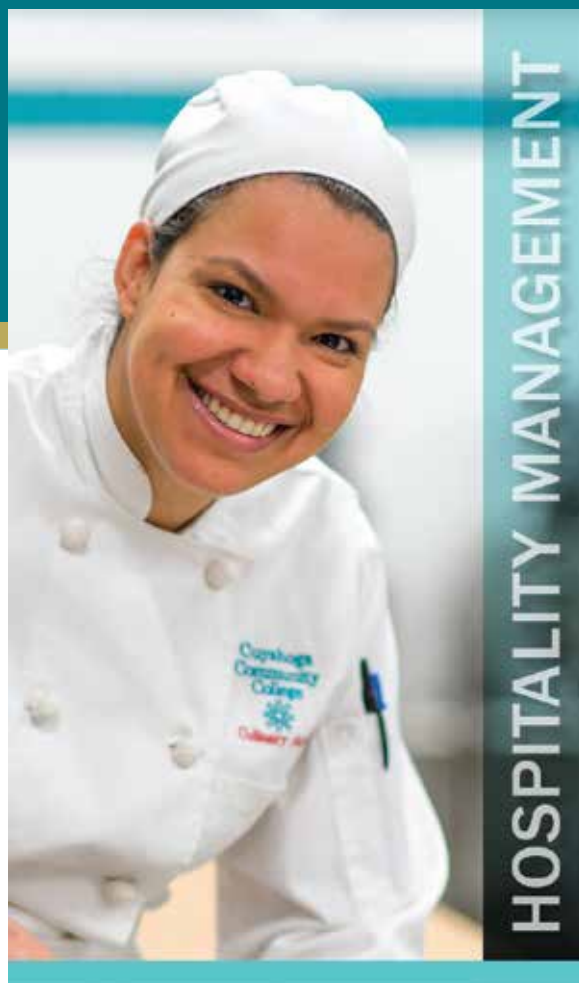
Tri-C Designates **6 CENTERS of EXCELLENCE**

*Marquee programs
successfully feed
job growth in
Northeast Ohio*

Cuyahoga Community College recently expanded its Tri-C Centers of Excellence to include six programs. The centers of excellence are the Division of Nursing Education, the Center for Creative Arts, the Public Safety Training Institute, the Hospitality Management Center, the Center for Information Technology and the Manufacturing Technology Center.

To be considered one of Tri-C's Centers of Excellence, a program must address a key area in which future job growth is expected; supply skilled workers for local employers; enroll a large number of students year after year; demonstrate high success rates; offer innovative educational programs; have broad impact on the region; use state-of-the-art facilities; and receive national recognition in its field.

"I am proud of the level of proficiency and recognition that these six areas have achieved and look forward to identifying even more Centers of Excellence in the future," said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C.





Tri-C's Division of Nursing Education administered the first associate degree nursing program in the state of Ohio in 1964. Today, many graduates of the program work at the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and other local, well-known institutions. Tri-C's fully accredited nursing program ranks fourth among community colleges in the nation, with an average of 1,000 students enrolled per year. The ratio of students to full-time faculty is 22-to-1, which allows for considerable individual attention. In 2014, the program produced 445 graduates College-wide.

Since 1982, the Public Safety Training Institute has provided high-quality law enforcement and fire training in Northeast Ohio. The institute provides basic training through the police, fire, private security, corrections and bailiff

academies as well as advanced training to support local emergency response services.

The Public Safety Training Center on the Western Campus, opened in September 2014, features specialized simulation areas that provide opportunities for realistic, hands-on skills training.

Tri-C's public safety academies train more emergency response professionals than any other academy in Ohio.

The Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts offers degrees and certificates in a wide spectrum of creative disciplines. The center also presents cultural showcases, such as Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, that bring nationally known acts and hundreds of visitors to the city.

In 2012, Cleveland native and Grammy Award-winning music

"I am proud of the level of proficiency and recognition that these six areas have achieved."

— Alex Johnson, Tri-C president

producer Tommy LiPuma made a \$3 million endowment to help the center employ the latest technological advances in creative arts. The center is located at the Metropolitan Campus and houses media arts, recording arts and performing arts studios; animation and music technology labs; dance and theater studios and more, along with The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum's library and archives.

Tri-C's Hospitality Management Center (HMC) is a leader in quality



TRI-C CENTERS of EXCELLENCE ARE:

- The Division of Nursing Education
- The Center for Creative Arts
- The Public Safety Training Institute
- The Hospitality Management Center
- The Center for Information Technology
- The Manufacturing Technology Center

educational programs in Northeast Ohio and is recognized as such throughout the region. This center of excellence offers associate degrees in culinary arts; lodging and tourism; and restaurant and food service management in addition to a variety of short-term certificates. Experienced faculty, rich curricula and connections to leaders in the Cleveland-area hospitality industry provide students with the hands-on experience they need to succeed.

The HMC, located in downtown Cleveland, adds to the city's diverse and exciting culinary scene and Public Square's revitalization. Co-located with Pura Vida Restaurant and Bar, the HMC provides amenities including two full-size kitchens and a demonstration studio. The facility also hosts dinner and demo nights along with corporate team-building events featuring a mix of professional cooking instruction and organizational effectiveness training through Tri-C's Corporate College®.

The Center for Information Technology addresses the national demand for skilled IT professionals and will significantly impact the local economy by training unemployed and underemployed individuals for jobs that provide family-sustaining wages. The IT center uses existing academic and workforce programming to optimize career and educational opportunities for Tri-C students, allowing them to align their interests and aptitudes with appropriate IT career pathways.

Specialized centers for high-demand, high-growth program areas including cyber security, cloud computing and analytics (or "big data") will be established at Tri-C campuses.

The IT center offers associate degrees in business solutions, programming and development, computer networking hardware and networking software in addition to short-term certificates and advanced certificates in areas like IT project management and Web application development.

Tri-C's newest Center of Excellence, the Manufacturing Technology Center, is based out of the Unified Technologies Center, one of the area's largest full-service technical training centers. The facility offers hands-on training labs featuring state-of-the-art equipment that allows Tri-C graduates to fulfill the growing talent and technology needs of the manufacturing industry in Northeast Ohio.

Students are trained in machining, 3D printing, programmable logic controls and mechatronics. They are able to move seamlessly along the academic continuum from GED to non-credit training to credit-based certificates of proficiency to associate degrees.

Some graduates find work in manufacturing while others transfer to pursue bachelor's degrees at partner universities. With its academic training, wraparound services and integrated enrollment services, the Manufacturing Technology Center defines Tri-C's one-door approach to academic and career advancement.

2016 Tri-C JazzFest, Presented by KeyBank JUNE 23-25 AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

Festival offers nine ticketed concerts and free outdoor entertainment


Cuyahoga Community College has a full lineup for the 2016 Tri-C JazzFest, presented by KeyBank. This year's festival will hit Playhouse Square's historic venues June 23, 24 and 25 with a wide range of musical offerings ranging from traditional jazz to sounds grounded in urban funk, blues and Latin stylings. Last year, more than 28,000 people enjoyed the three-day downtown event. "Tri-C JazzFest has grown into a

true destination for music fans," said Terri Pontremoli, festival director. The 2016 event will once again include free outdoor concerts along Euclid Avenue at U.S. Bank Plaza. The popular performances will feature local talent selected by a jury of music industry experts. Festival passes, offering VIP seating to all nine ticketed concerts, plus other perks, are available for \$250. Call 216-640-8800 to buy passes. Individual tickets may be purchased through


the Playhouse Square Box Office beginning April 8. Founded in 1980 by Dr. Thom Horning and Reginald Buckner, Tri-C JazzFest stays true to its mission to foster the history and nurture the future of jazz; to provide educational opportunities for students of all ages and in all walks of life; and to bring world-class jazz to Cleveland. For a full roster of Tri-C JazzFest events, including the free community concerts, visit www.tri-cjazzfest.com.

THE 2016 CONCERT LINE UP:

Thursday, June 23
Tommy LiPuma's Big Birthday Bash – 7:30 p.m., Connor Palace




Diana Krall



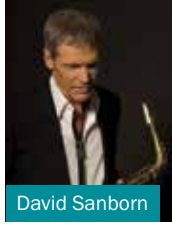
Dr. John

Legendary music producer and Cleveland native Tommy LiPuma will celebrate his 80th birthday with performances from acclaimed artists whose careers he helped shape, including Diana Krall, Al Jarreau, Dr. John and Leon Russell. The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra will back the all-star line up.

Friday, June 24



Chick Corea




David Sanborn

Chick Corea – 6 p.m., Ohio Theatre

David Sanborn/Maceo Parker – 8 p.m., Connor Palace

Big Sam's Funky Nation – 10:15 p.m., Outcalt Theatre


Saturday, June 25



Terence Blanchard

Melissa Aldana/Somi – 1 p.m., Hanna Theatre

Terence Blanchard's E-Collective – 3 p.m., Ohio Theatre



Brian Culbertson

Dominick Farinacci album release concert – 4:45 p.m., Hanna Theatre

Contemporary Jazz Extravaganza with Lalah Hathaway, BWB and Brian Culbertson – 7:15 p.m., Connor Palace

¡Cubanismo! – 10:30 p.m., Outcalt Theatre

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www.tri-cjazzfest.com

Fostering a Culture of Faculty Engagement AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Tri-C's Office of Leadership, Enrichment and Development promotes camaraderie and community

When District Director Andy Pegman took over the department previously known as Teaching, Learning and Professional Academic Development in January 2014, he knew change was in order.

He reoriented the department's focus, and he lobbied for a new name to reflect the change. Say hello to the Office of Leadership, Enrichment and Development (LEAD).

"I wanted to build on the strengths of past practices while adding new and innovative ways to support student success, leadership development and faculty scholarship," said Pegman. "LEAD was chosen because our faculty are leaders at the College, and I wanted our name to reflect that."

LEAD promotes innovation, leadership and continuous improvement to Cuyahoga Community College faculty. It provides opportunities for collaboration through seminars, group discussions and annual events like Faculty Colloquium and College-wide Convocation.

"The concept of quality improvement has been incorporated into higher education in many ways within the last decade," Pegman said. "The empowerment of College faculty to harness their unique talents and skills and promote their own professional growth is essential to this concept."

Recognizing that faculty knowledge and expertise foster a positive student experience, LEAD integrates leadership training into the College's existing professional development program for full- and part-time faculty.

"We have so much talent and so many excellent resources within our institution that sometimes the challenge is how to share them," Pegman said.

Faculty Central will help. It's a website the LEAD office maintains to provide one-stop access to resources like the faculty calendar; contact information for key staff members including campus-based



Provost Dr. Craig Foltin with 2015-16 Besse Award winners (L-R) Kelly Moranz, Hanumanth Rao Padaraju, Dr. Holly Craider, Dr. Bilal Bomani, Dr. Susan Lohwater, David Bernatowicz, and Seong-Ae Mun.

faculty coordinators; announcements; information on upcoming conferences and events; forms and documents; and information on service activity credits.

The recently produced Faculty Development Catalog, also available on the site, includes a full schedule and descriptions of training and professional development opportunities. It features a wide variety of online and in-person workshops offered on an almost daily basis, allowing both full- and part-time faculty members the chance to participate.

The LEAD Scholar Series is the cornerstone of faculty development at Tri-C, focusing on eight key components including engagement, lifelong learning, technology training and diversity in higher education. Session topics range from incorporating social media in the classroom to increasing student literacy to writing an effective grant proposal. Faculty who participate in sessions from four of the eight categories receive a LEAD Scholar Certificate.

Other initiatives include the yearlong Tenure-track Faculty Onboarding Program (required for all



Faculty members discuss best teaching practices at the 2016 Faculty Colloquium.



Full and part-time faculty explore ways to support student engagement.

new tenure-track faculty) and the Faculty Mentoring Program, which pairs new full-time and adjunct faculty with experienced and enthusiastic faculty mentors to help them better understand the College's goals, objectives, resources and procedures.

The Instructional Technology Mini-Grant program encourages faculty to explore classroom technology, and the Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award and the Excellence in Teaching Award in Honor of Ralph M. Besse both recognize faculty achievement.

Program coordinator Kara DePaul plans faculty events and manages key initiatives like the Onboarding Program.

"Tri-C offers such a wealth of opportunity for students, staff and faculty," she said.

DePaul also works with the campus-based faculty development and mentoring coordinators. LEAD appoints them to facilitate faculty involvement in these programs. They also serve on College-wide planning committees for events such as Convocation and Colloquium to ensure that the programming is relevant and timely.

It is important to note that LEAD-sponsored initiatives are ultimately driven by faculty members themselves. "While LEAD offers a host of development opportunities, faculty are encouraged to



Alan Gerding shares innovative classroom icebreakers with colleagues.

contact us or their faculty development coordinators to let us know what they would like to see at their campuses," DePaul said.

A former adjunct and tenured faculty member himself, Pegman understands the leadership potential of educators both in and out of the classroom. Without the LEAD office's support and encouragement, valuable opportunities to share knowledge and skills might be wasted — at the expense of student success.

"LEAD impacts student success in everything that we do," Pegman said.



Andy Pegman

ANDREW PEGMAN, DISTRICT DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF LEADERSHIP, ENRICHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

When he's not promoting faculty growth and development at Tri-C, Andy Pegman can usually be found indulging his passion for the great outdoors, particularly fishing and birding. An active member of both Outdoor Writers of Ohio and Outdoor Writers Association of America, Pegman's nature-inspired stories have appeared in *The Plain Dealer*, *Sun News*, *Ohio Outdoor News* and other publications. He is currently working on a collection of humorous and philosophical short stories and sketches that he hopes to have published within the next year.



The WIT program serves women in all stages of life, creating a lasting support system for participants.

You've Got a Friend

Tri-C program offers a helping hand to women

Evelyn Ramirez was sending her daughter, Emily, off to her first year of college when Emily decided to challenge her mom. Let's both earn degrees, she said.

At the time, Ramirez was going through a rough patch. Within a span of two weeks, she had filed for divorce, been laid off and lost her grandmother unexpectedly. "I felt defeated, paralyzed," she said. "I would walk the supermarket aisle and not be able to afford a gallon of milk, with four kids at home that I had to feed."

In spite of these challenges, Ramirez took her daughter's suggestion and enrolled at Tri-C, joining the Women in Transition (WIT) program in the summer of 2015. WIT helps women experiencing personal or professional challenges by offering them education and support.

Ramirez finished the program, found confidence and purpose and is now employed as an executive assistant at a Fortune 500 company while still pursuing an associate degree at Tri-C as a newly inducted

member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

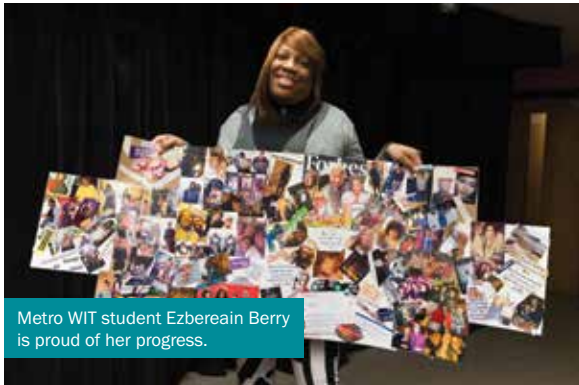
"[WIT] helped me learn to be kind to myself, to develop myself and accept where I was in my life while continuing to move forward," she said.

Founded in 1978, WIT — then known as Displaced Homemakers — was initially meant to train women who had lost their main source of income through divorce or death of a spouse. Today, WIT serves a more diverse population including single mothers, women recovering from addiction or homelessness, empty-nesters, formerly incarcerated women and even those with a degree or career who want to follow a new course.

The eight-week, non-credit program is designed to transform and empower women through education and training so they can move forward in their lives.



WIT student Hadassah Scott shows off her poster project.



Metro WIT student Ezbereain Berry is proud of her progress.

The curriculum focuses on personal development, career exploration and computer skills, with workshops that help women develop confidence, build self-esteem, identify marketable skills and explore their interests. Participants also learn about Tri-C's educational and workforce training programs.

WIT classes provide a supportive, confidential space. Participants gain confidence as they learn to draw strength from within to promote personal wellness and fulfillment.

"As women, we are natural nurturers. We know how to take care of everyone else but ourselves," WIT Program Director Cicely Campbell said. "I think it's the compassion and sense of sisterhood that have the greatest impact on our students."

Tonesia Mack felt stuck in her longtime job as a barber and stylist. "I didn't see myself growing and reaching my full potential," she said. She joined WIT in fall of 2012 to explore career options.

The open and honest discussions in class affected her personally and professionally. "We were able to express ourselves — sometimes with tears, sometimes with laughter," Mack said. "We shared our dreams and our fears, our triumphs and our trials, and it was all OK."

Mack has since earned an Associate of Arts degree from Tri-C and is enrolled in the nursing program at Ursuline College. "I see, hear and live a different me," she said.

Like Mack, many WIT participants continue their studies at Tri-C. About half are considered "college-ready" when they begin college courses, and of that number about 35 percent enroll at Tri-C. For these women, retention rates are high and the average GPA is 3.07.

"My team is often thanked for changing the life of the graduate, and I believe that we truly are changing lives," Campbell said. "The women build self-confidence and gain friendships along the way. They learn to bring out what has been inside of them all along."

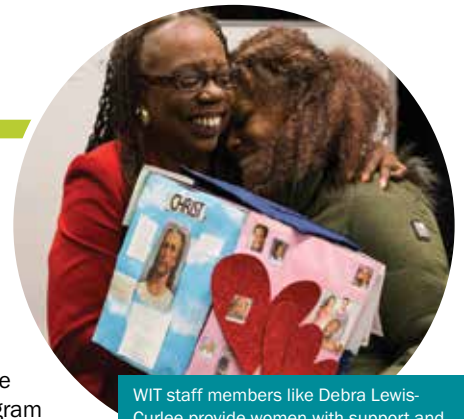


Cicely Campbell

CICELY CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR, WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Introduced to WIT through a Cuyahoga County work experience program, Cicely Campbell served as a volunteer, program assistant and student advisor before becoming the WIT director in 2012. "On paper, it might appear that I have everything together. I have two degrees from two very prestigious universities, a bachelor's from Vanderbilt University and a master's from Washington University in St. Louis. However, I myself am in transition, and thus I am leading by example. I don't take that lightly," she said. "My mother

passed in 2013. Though I've been an adult for some time, I could always depend on my mother — whether it was living in her home or relying on her help to raise my son. Now I'm developing a plan for a financially sound future for myself and my son."



RUN FOR WIT

Running is a metaphor for life. Every day, extraordinary women run through obstacles to change their lives in the Women in Transition program at Cuyahoga Community College. Please join Tri-C board trustee Rachel Von Hendrix, a child of WIT, in The Rite Aid Cleveland Half Marathon May 15, 2016. All funds raised will provide scholarships for women in Tri-C's Women in Transition program to pursue degrees or certificates.

WIT staff members like Debra Lewis-Curlee provide women with support and encouragement when they need it most.

For sponsorship and other information, visit: www.tri-c.edu/give or call the Tri-C Foundation at 216-987-4868 by April 29.

DAVID KUNTZ JOINS COLLEGE AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

More than two decades after graduating from Tri-C with an associate degree in applied business management, David Kuntz returned to the College in February as executive vice president of administration and finance.

“Given my own experience, I know Cuyahoga Community College offers opportunities for people to change their lives through education,” Kuntz said. “I’m excited to be part of an organization so dedicated to building brighter futures.”

Kuntz brings more than two decades of financial management experience and executive leadership to the College.

He spent the past seven years as chief financial officer at Cleveland Metroparks.

His financial stewardship of the park system earned Kuntz numerous accolades. He received awards of distinction from the Ohio Auditor of State and certificates of excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association.

In his new position, Kuntz will be responsible for managing the College’s \$300 million annual budget and leading multiple administrative departments.

The certified public accountant has served as a board member of the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association since 2009 and has been active in other professional organizations in his field.



David Kuntz

Kuntz holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Baldwin-Wallace College (now Baldwin Wallace University) in addition to his Tri-C degree.

A lifelong Northeast Ohio resident, Kuntz grew up in Brunswick and now lives in North Royalton.

MEGAN O’BRYAN SELECTED TO LEAD TRI-C FOUNDATION

Megan O’Bryan shook the hands of thousands of Tri-C graduates crossing the stage at commencement during her three years on the Cuyahoga Community College Board of Trustees.

“There was no greater reward for me than sharing that moment of accomplishment and success with a student,” O’Bryan said.

And now it’s her mission to help more students achieve that experience.

O’Bryan recently joined Tri-C as vice president of development and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, which raises funds to benefit students through scholarships and enhanced academic programming.

Last academic year, the Foundation awarded a record \$1.7 million to Tri-C students. The Foundation oversees more than 150 scholarship funds.

“Tri-C and the Foundation work tirelessly to bolster the vitality of our region by empowering individuals and allowing them to achieve their goals,” O’Bryan said. “I

am very excited to be part of an amazing team working to help students realize their college and career dreams.”

Before coming to Tri-C, O’Bryan spent nearly three years as executive director of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, a public-private nonprofit tasked with reinventing public education in the city. She led the organization as it embarked on its unprecedented education reform plan.

In her role, she facilitated collaboration between academic, government and business representatives on a mission to ensure that every child in Cleveland could attend an excellent school.

O’Bryan brought that same drive for educational opportunity and achievement to the Tri-C Board of Trustees, on which she served from 2012 until September 2015.

She also guided Cleveland Rape Crisis Center’s growth and expansion for over a decade and held executive roles with the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence and Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland. Overall, O’Bryan brings two decades of philanthropic and leadership experience to the College.



Megan O’Bryan

O’Bryan holds a master’s degree in nonprofit organizations from Case Western Reserve University and a bachelor’s degree in English from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

The lifelong Northeast Ohio resident called her new position an opportunity to contribute to the future of the region.

“The community grows stronger with every degree and certificate earned by a Tri-C student,” O’Bryan said. “Lives change for the better through the opportunities created by the Foundation. It’s an honor to be part of that work.”

Donna Imhoff

SELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF TRI-C WESTERN CAMPUS

On her first day as president of Tri-C's Western Campus in February, Donna Imhoff watched thousands of new faces heading to and from class and instantly connected. She felt like she knew these students.

That's because she still remembers taking those same steps on her higher education journey.

As a first-generation college graduate, Imhoff said she understood the uncertainty that grips many community college students as they enter the unknown. Approximately one of three Tri-C students are the first in their family to attend college.

"Community colleges provide opportunities for all people who have the desire and drive to earn a college degree or certificate," Imhoff said. "Our role at Tri-C is to help them achieve that ultimate goal of graduation."

Imhoff arrives at Tri-C with a reputation as a champion for students. She spent the past three decades at Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, where she rose in the ranks to become president of the largest campus in the CCAC system.

Imhoff served the past four years as president of CCAC's Allegheny Campus in Pittsburgh, where she expanded workforce programs, supervised a campus revitalization project and broadened community involvement.

She also was president of CCAC's suburban North Campus from 2008 to 2013. In two of those years, she oversaw both the North and Allegheny campuses with a leadership style based on honesty and open communication.

The president positions followed a variety of roles at CCAC, where Imhoff started her career in 1985 as a coordinator/instructor. She later served as an acting assistant director of social service career programs, a career counselor and an academic advisor.



Donna Imhoff



Blanca Flores (foreground) and Kristina Carmody discuss the Captioning and Court Reporting program with Dr. Imhoff.

CCAC named Imhoff an associate professor of psychology in 2001 and a professor in 2004. She served as department chair from 2005 until being named campus president in 2008.

Imhoff holds a doctorate in social and comparative analysis education from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in school psychology from Duquesne University and a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation education from Penn State University.

Add it all up, and that's more than three decades of experience and education now benefiting Tri-C and its



Dr. Imhoff with students Vivek Desai (standing) and student ambassador Dorsey Faught.

students. Imhoff said she's truly excited to join "such an excellent institution" and eager to get involved with the Greater Cleveland community.

Her primary objective from day one, though, has been clear: "My goal is always to guide our students to a path of success."

And she definitely knows the way.

Alum is advocate FOR VETERANS INITIATIVE

Monique Menefee-Proffitt has overcome obstacles to build a better life for herself and her daughter

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Monique Menefee-Proffitt found herself and her toddler homeless.

Living out of her car, she knew life had more in store for her. Her faith and resolve kept her going. After making a home for her daughter through the Cleveland Housing Network, she enrolled in the TRIO program at Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus. This federally funded program helps underserved and first-generation college students complete postsecondary education and prepare for successful baccalaureate programs.

As a veteran, Proffitt became an advocate for the College's Veterans Initiative, speaking to groups and writing letters to organizations promoting the need for support for veterans and Tri-C's efforts on their behalf.

"Tri-C's Veterans Initiative helped with my adjustment to everyday life and to my college career. The individualized support and assistance I received made all the difference in my life," she recalls.

It wasn't long before this tenacious woman found herself at the head of the class, earning a Tri-C Foundation scholarship and serving as the College's Board Student Scholar for the 2008-2009 academic year. By the time she completed her tenure in that role, she had also earned three degrees from Tri-C: an Associate of Arts, an Associate of Science and an Associate of Business.

But she didn't stop there. Proffitt continued her studies at Kent State University, earning her Bachelor of



Science in Spanish translation and her Master of Education in higher education administration. Ohio Gov. John Kasich acknowledged her leadership by appointing her as the board of trustees graduate representative to the Kent State University Board of Trustees.

"Tri-C is one of the greatest places I have encountered on my journey. I will forever be grateful for all the support and many wonderful people who took time to help foster the person I have become. Tri-C will always be home," Proffitt said.

Today, Proffitt serves as the associate director of Career-Technical Transfer Initiatives for the Ohio Articulation

"Tri-C is one of the greatest places I have encountered on my journey... Tri-C will always be home."

and Transfer Network in the Ohio Department of Higher Education and is passionately dedicated to helping others reach their educational goals and aspirations. She is an inspiration to others, including her daughter.

"My future began at Tri-C," Proffitt said.

Grant from Alcoa Foundation

TO PROVIDE CUTTING-EDGE MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation has received a \$75,000 grant from Alcoa Foundation to upgrade the College's manufacturing lab with computer-controlled machines, robotic arms and other technological tools vital to training tomorrow's workforce. The new equipment will help make Tri-C students more proficient with smart manufacturing methods, better preparing them for in-demand industrial jobs requiring technical skills.

"Today's manufacturing jobs require skilled workers proficient with the latest technology in the industry," said Alicia Booker, vice president of manufacturing with Tri-C's Workforce, Community and Economic Development (WCED) division. "Alcoa Foundation's generosity ensures that our students will train on equipment they will encounter in manufacturing."

Tri-C is developing a training program in conjunction with industry leaders such as Alcoa to ensure graduates develop the skills needed to get jobs. The Siemens Mechatronics Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) will be integrated into the new training program, providing participants the opportunity to earn a nationally recognized certificate.

"Digital technology and automation is a growing part of doing business across all sectors, from aerospace to



Alcoa recently presented a grant to the Tri-C Foundation to provide equipment that will help Tri-C students acquire the skills required for jobs in advanced manufacturing. Pictured, left to right: Alicia Booker, Vice President, Manufacturing, Workforce and Economic Development (WCED); Michael Schoop, President, Tri-C Metro Campus; William Gary, Executive Vice President, WCED; Alex Johnson, President, Tri-C; Cary Dell, Manager, Internal Communications, Alcoa and Ryan Kish, Program Manager, Alcoa Foundation, with students Christine Francisco and Vincent Suber.

electronics," said Ryan Kish, Alcoa Foundation program manager. "Alcoa and other advanced manufacturers require a more highly-skilled employee than just a decade ago to manage and interpret this new level of data and use it to problem-solve in real time. Students in Tri-C's upgraded training center will learn to interpret and react to data streaming from smart tools to experience in-the-moment action that affects productivity, quality and delivery."

The equipment will serve as the centerpiece of the College's revamped manufacturing center. The Unified Technologies Center, which opened in 1986, is undergoing a renovation to house the College's Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence. Plans call for the new equipment to

be installed by the middle of the year on the main floor of the UTC, located on Woodland Avenue at the College's Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland.

Alcoa has been a long-term partner of the Tri-C Foundation and the College and has made a lasting impact on the region through support for student scholarships, veterans programs and special initiatives. Recent support from Alcoa has also funded a veterans coordinator who offers outreach and support services for veterans and benefited College's Youth Technology Academy, enhancing opportunities for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) engagement outside the classroom. The College and the Tri-C Foundation appreciate their continued, generous support.

REANNA SZARKA *nearly danced away her 2016 softball season at Tri-C*

Eight months before the start of the season, the women's softball team's returning shortstop and leadoff hitter shredded her right knee warming up for a dance competition. She tore her ACL and meniscus after landing a tumbling pass.

"My knee just buckled," Szarka said. "I knew it was bad."

Szarka began rehab three days after surgeons worked their magic. She exercised every day after that, strengthening the joint with one goal in mind: taking the field this spring.

"I told coach I'd be back in time," Szarka said. "No way was I missing the season."

Coach Bryan Komlos still can't believe that he can pencil — no, make that ink — Szarka's name into the lineup. She returned as one of the team's top players after posting a stellar stat line in 2015.

In her first season with the Challengers, Szarka batted .302 with three home runs, 11 doubles and 20 RBI. She also scored 36 runs and stole seven bases.

"She worked her tail off to be that kind of player, and she did the same thing to get back," Komlos said. "It's personal dedication. Once she sets her mind to something, she's going to do it."

Szarka brings the same approach to the classroom, where she's studying to become a nurse. She intends to transfer from Tri-C to a four-year school to pursue a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

She commutes to Tri-C's Western Campus for classes from her home in Mantua in Portage County, where she graduated from Crestwood High School in 2014.

The College's affordability and reputation in academics and athletics



"This season we're coming back with something to prove."



Reanna Szarka

lured Szarka to Tri-C. "It feels like home here," Szarka said. "At Tri-C, you have a name. You're not just a number in a class."

As for the upcoming softball season, Szarka is focused on leading the Challengers to the top of the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference and into the NJCAA Division II National Championship.

Tri-C finished 21-17 and second in OCCAC last season, which ended with a loss in regionals.

"Last season didn't end the way we wanted it to," Szarka said. "There's so much talent on this team, and it's crazy how much better we are compared to last year. We're coming back with something to prove."

Tri-C's softball team plays its home games at Tri-C's Western Campus in Parma. For a schedule, go to www.tri-c.edu/athletics.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS A PROUD PARTNER IN THE “POLITICALLY SPEAKING” SERIES WITH AREA UNIVERSITIES.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING SERIES

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS IN THE STATE OF OHIO ▸ EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Baldwin Wallace University (BW), Cleveland State University (CSU), Case Western Reserve University (CASE), Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), John Carroll University (JCU), Kent State University (KSU) and the University of Akron (U of A) have formed a partnership to present Politically Speaking, a series of community forums to discuss the upcoming presidential election.

The series kicked off in February at an event hosted by CSU and BW on Ohio's role in choosing the president, with keynote speaker Kyle Kondik, managing

editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball, and University of Virginia Center for Politics. A response panel was led by moderator Jo Ann Davidson, former speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Amy Walter, national editor of *The Cook Report* and frequent panelist on NBC's *Meet the Press*, led a presentation on the presidential primary process at John Carroll on March 31.

The thought behind the forum is to illuminate the presidential election process for students and the community. The series is impartial and makes no endorsement of any one candidate or party, but sheds light on the election process, polling and the

financial aspect of hosting a national convention. Nationally recognized journalists, educators and panelists lead the discussions.

Kent State University and the University of Akron will sponsor a forum on April 25 on the topic why polling still matters. Tri-C will partner with Case Western Reserve University in June to explore the economic impact of national political conventions.

The events are free and open to the public. Registration is required; visit politicallyspeaking.eventbrite.com for the most up to date information. You may also call 216-987-4805 with questions.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Registration is required, visit politicallyspeaking.eventbrite.com.

Questions? Call 216-987-4805



Meet Me @Tri-C:

Michelle Thomas

Do you follow Cuyahoga Community College on Facebook, Twitter or some other social media platform? Then you already know Michelle Thomas, Integrated Communications coordinator at the College. She is the one who crafts the College's posts and tweets.

TRI-C TIMES: What is your favorite social media platform and why?

MICHELLE THOMAS: I favor Instagram. Having always been a visual person, I follow the belief that a picture is worth a thousand words. I follow accounts of users who don't speak English, but pictures don't require Google Translate. Also, I'm no photographer, but a picture of my dog doing silly things can make me and others happy. My favorite Instagram account to follow is @natgeo (National Geographic) — captivating photographs and captions that give me useful trivia.

TCT: What considerations do you make when crafting a post or tweet for the College?

MT: The main consideration is which platform to use. If the content is a large College announcement, it gets the smorgasbord of social media coverage: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+.

This was seen recently with the appointment of Megan O'Bryan as the new vice president of development and the Tri-C Foundation. She even tweeted us back and thanked the College on Facebook.

For campus-specific events, many times a tweet a week prior and day of will suffice along with using the campus-specific hashtag (#TriCMetro, #TriCWest, #TriCEast, #TriCWestshore).

The second consideration is who and what to tag. You can expand your audience by tagging a partner or using the appropriate hashtag to join in the conversation. Recently, the Hospitality Management group was featured on *Kickin' It with Kenny*. We shared the segment, tagged Downtown Cleveland Alliance and #dtCLERestaurantWeek so our users could join in the conversation too.

TCT: How valuable is social media to College communications?

MT: Whether we like it or not, social media is here to stay. As a college, getting on board has allowed us to engage students and provide information that might have otherwise been discarded.

TCT: Would it be ideal if every student checked their email every day?

MT: Yes. But more than likely, students old and young will check their social media every day. By advertising registration dates, notifying students of school closings or delays, posting FAFSA deadlines and bringing attention to campus activities, we've seen a large engagement, and students are comfortable reaching out on social media with questions because we have an active presence and respond quickly.

Students who engage on social media with their college have a higher likelihood of completion. Knowing this, we get out on campus and spread the word for students to #followus.

TCT: How would you characterize student engagement with Tri-C social media?

MT: Our largest engagement is on Facebook. We have the largest

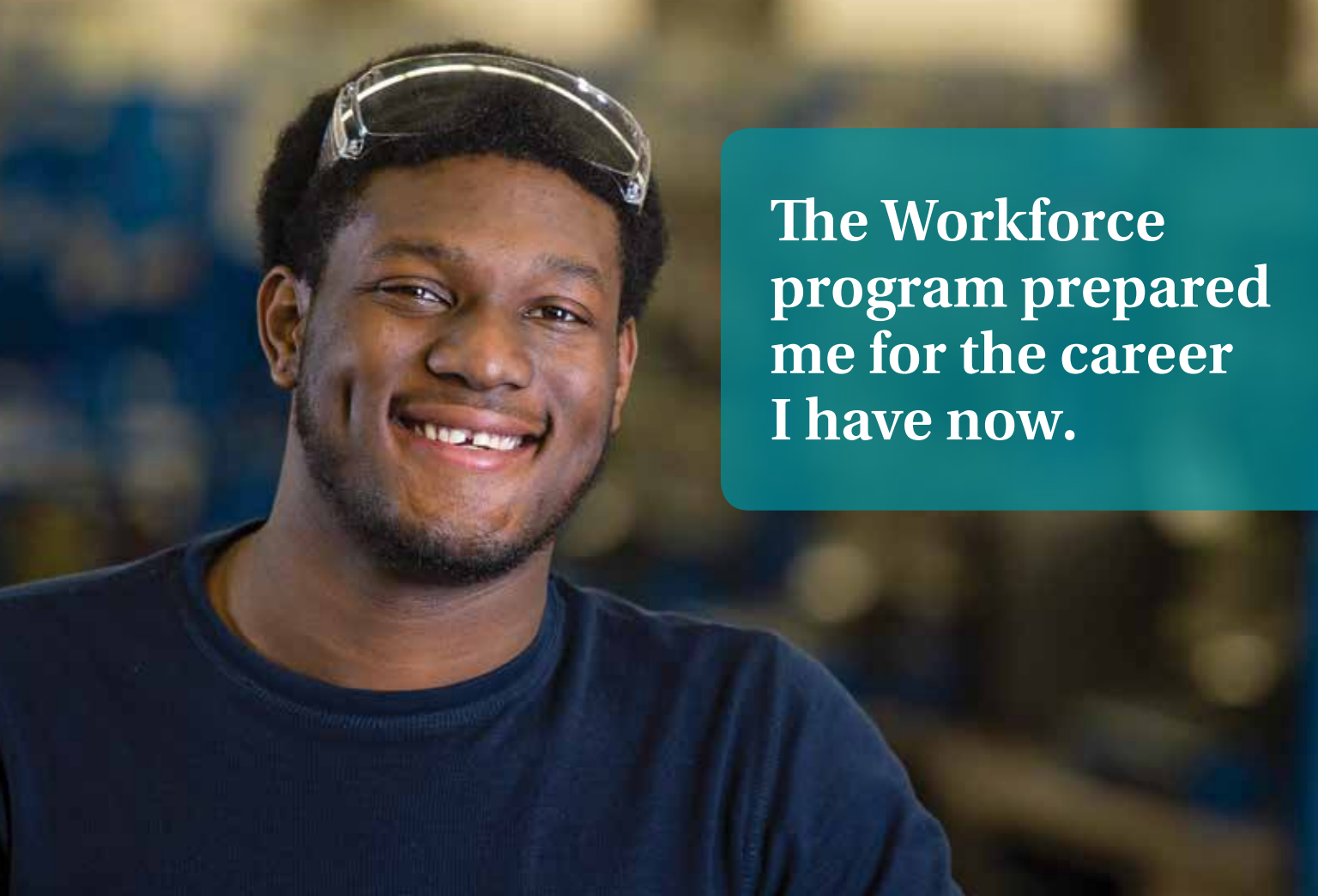


following at more than 14,000. Students message our Facebook multiple times a week, post questions directly on the page and like, comment and share the content more often than on other platforms. From what our team has seen in social media trends, large engagement on Facebook makes sense as the average Tri-C student is in their late 20s or early 30s and the largest user base on Facebook falls between 25 and 40 years old.

TCT: Describe one of your favorite social media projects or posts.

MT: Every Tuesday, we do a #TriviaTuesday. It is my favorite post of the week because we can break away from some of the "collegiate" talk and have fun with the students. We draw questions from current events and post a picture with the post (pictures increase interest and engagement). Students can win prizes for answering. It is also a great way to get students to follow us. "Want to win something free? Follow Tri-C!" Who doesn't like prizes?

To keep up with Tri-C students and graduates, check out Meet Me @ Tri-C, a periodic feature on the Tri-C Trending blog at tri-c.edu/trictrending.



The Workforce program prepared me for the career I have now.

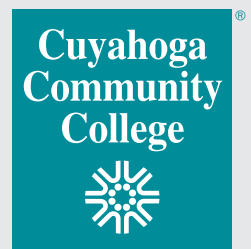
SKILLED

Through workforce training at Tri-C®, Chris Groomes gained the skills he needed to begin a new career.

Chris came to Cuyahoga Community College's Workforce and Economic Development program right out of high school. His goal was to gain the skills he needed to become gainfully employed. After receiving his certifications in Precision Machining and CNC programming, Chris got a job as a machinist in the aerospace industry. Tri-C gave Chris the opportunity to enter the workforce with career building skills.

Are you ready to start a new career? Tri-C's Workforce and Economic Development offers non-credit and credit training for individuals, including fast-track training programs with convenient class times that meet your schedule. Tri-C is the smart choice to get your start.

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Moving Forward

The 26th Annual

Frances M. Franklin Scholarship & Protégé Luncheon

Saturday, May 7, 2016 | 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Corporate College East

4400 Richmond Road
Warrensville Heights, OH 44128

Featuring keynote speaker

**The Honorable Michael J. Ryan, Judge,
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court**

**For more information, please call
Cuyahoga Community College
Black American Council
(formerly Black Caucus)
216-987-4527**

