Where Futures Begin
For more than 50 years, Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) has provided the residents of Northeast Ohio with access to high-quality, affordable education. As Ohio’s first and largest public community college, Tri-C has welcomed more than 900,000 students — 60,000 last year — to its four campuses and many educational centers.

More than 85 percent of Tri-C graduates live and work in the region; in the past year alone, more than 1,000 local employers hired Tri-C graduates or trained their workers at the College.

But declining state and local funding is placing our ability to continue to meet our mission in peril. Since 2011, the College has lost approximately $63.6 million in state and local funding. The College has cut more than $10 million, reallocating funds to support instruction and key student support services.

To avoid further cuts of more than $40 million annually, Tri-C must renew a 10-year, 1.2-mill levy this November and add 0.9 mills, an increase of $2.63 per month for the owner of a $100,000 home. Failure to pass this issue would result in drastic reductions in College programs and services and a lost investment in our community.

What is that investment in the community? It will keep college education affordable and accessible to Cuyahoga County’s students and families, creating individual economic viability to assist people in becoming productive and engaged citizens and members of the community.

It enables students to less expensively complete two years of college with a degree, then transfer into a bachelor’s program. Our partnerships with K-12 schools and other higher education institutions strive to make this process seamless and relevant for students.

This investment in our community protects the local economy and workforce competitiveness with up-to-date education and training. Tri-C partners with employers, community organizations and government to attract business and develop the workforce of the region. We remain focused on community engagement so that we can particularly reach out to disconnected individuals to address the disparities in society.

Now more than ever, Tri-C is Where futures begin — for our students, and for our community. With the support of our community, we can continue that mission for years to come.

Sincerely,

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
President, Cuyahoga Community College
It is the nightmare of many incoming freshmen: Showing up to college on the first day, not knowing where your classes are, seeing thousands of unfamiliar faces and wondering if you can even survive the first couple of hours, let alone the entire semester.

Fortunately, for Cuyahoga Community College students, a new course is easing their transition to college and helping them form a plan to complete their education. The First Year Experience course, required for new students, introduces them to the College and the resources it offers.

“The journey of first-year students getting established and navigating the path toward degree completion includes several carefully timed activities facilitated by various campus personnel,” said Dr. Belinda Miles, executive vice president of academic and student affairs.

Among those activities is Welcome Week, during which faculty and staff answer questions, hand out schedule books and make things easier for first-time students. After Welcome Week, counselors continue to help students reach their goals.

“Counselors assist students by working with them to identify their career interests, talents and abilities and connect them with programs and opportunities at the College and beyond,” said Karen Miller, vice president of enrollment and student affairs. “They conduct workshops to explore career interests, develop study and test-taking skills and overcome test anxiety.”

Every student needs a plan for completion, Dr. Miles said. “The College is working to ensure that every first-time college student has a person and a plan; there is a role for every College employee to achieve this,” she said.

The College brought together nearly 200 faculty, staff and administrators from each of the Tri-C campuses to help take the First-Year Experience to another level.

“Program planners and academic guides that document sequences of courses on a semester-by-semester basis leading to graduation are among key resources available to students,” Dr. Miles said. “Actively engaging all Tri-C staff in this work would benefit starting students on their paths to completion.”

Guidance on course selection is one thing, but overwhelmed first-time college students sometimes need other kinds of help.

“Among the many employee roles (are) getting to know students, serving as mentors, and helping connect students with other academic or enrollment services and support at Tri-C,” Dr. Miles said.

Additionally, they provide academic advising, personal counseling, career counseling and some psychological services, and they refer students to external agencies as needed.

Those helping hands also reach out to prospective Tri-C students. “I encourage all possible students and their families to meet faculty and staff, connect with other students and engage in campus events, programs and services,” Dr. Miles said. “Those connections can make all the difference in making a smart choice, having a smart start, being engaged, staying in school and completing a degree or certificate.”

“I earned my first degree at Cuyahoga Community College. I saved a lot of money starting at Tri-C. All my credits transferred to Kent State University.” — Stephanie Bayne
Tri-C’s associate degree and short-term certificate programs meet the diverse needs of students who are pursuing careers.

Cuyahoga Community College has earned a reputation for providing a high-quality education at an affordable price. The College is known for its associate degree programs in traditional fields such as business and nursing, but Tri-C also offers degrees and short-term certificates that prepare students to compete in today’s evolving career landscape.

Here are the stories of two students who found what they needed at Tri-C.

GENEVA FOSTER, Health and Information Technology

Geneva Foster had planned to pursue a doctorate in Information Systems and Communications and a career in higher education, but the 2008 recession changed her plans. Suddenly, she found herself picking up part-time work here and there and wondering about her future.

Foster knew there were opportunities in health care despite the economic downturn, but she needed training before she could enter the field. So in September 2010 she enrolled in Tri-C’s Health Information Technology (HIT) program. HIT professionals implement, manage and analyze electronic health records to improve health care quality, safety, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

“Then and now, Tri-C is the only school in the region that provides HIT training as a stand-alone, rapid certificate program,” Foster said.

The program comprises 10 online courses and must be completed in 12 months. Foster took 22 weeks and, in January 2011, she earned national certification as an implementation support specialist and a trainer. Not only did she get help and support from Tri-C staff and faculty, she received valuable networking opportunities through the program.

“I believe that if you have transferrable hard and soft skills, are clear about what you can bring to the field and are tenacious, the Tri-C HIT Training program can help you transition or advance in the field,” Foster said. “It helps you fill in education or knowledge gaps, and helps develop or expand your network with HIT industry leaders.”

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MICHELLE HARPER,
Captioning and Court Reporting

Michelle Harper, after working long hours in sales and being pregnant with her first child, decided it was time for a change. “I became interested in the Captioning and Court Reporting program while talking to a close friend of mine who is a court reporter,” said Harper. Tri-C was her first choice. “It is accredited, less expensive than other options and offered an online program,” she said.

Tri-C offers the lowest tuition for CCR in Ohio. The CCR program offers two paths to completion: one by way of a stenotype machine, the other by voice recognition technology. Students can pursue an associate degree in CCR or follow the certified curriculum outlined by the National Court Reporters Association.

Adjunct faculty member Kelly Moranz immediately noticed Harper's drive to succeed. “Michelle has been an outstanding student from the very start,” said Moranz. “Throughout, she has maintained a consistent practice routine, which is one of the major keys to success and continued progress.”

CCR students also receive practical experience through internship and volunteer opportunities. Harper put her knowledge and skills to the test during a mock deposition at Case Western Reserve University’s law school. She also had the distinct honor of being a student writer for Tri-C’s 2013 Presidential Scholarship Luncheon with keynote speaker President Bill Clinton.

“I enjoyed Michelle’s enthusiastic and positive response when I invited her to write along with President Clinton,” said Moranz. “It truly demonstrates her dedication to her training and the program.”

Each opportunity has helped shape who Harper is today. “I have been so grateful to be able to participate in this program,” she said. “I have had so many positive experiences and love all of the opportunities that I have been offered to participate in.”

Tuition Lock-In Rate
Tri-C was the first community college in Ohio to offer a tuition guarantee to students.

Beginning Fall Semester 2014, Cuyahoga Community College offered first-time, full-time students a tuition guarantee program that locks in their initial tuition rate for up to three consecutive years of full-time study. Tri-C was the first community college in Ohio to offer the program. Other community colleges are now following this model.

All first-time, full-time students — including out-of-county and out-of-state students — will be eligible for the guarantee. To remain in the program, each student must sign a contract and meet certain benchmarks, including credit-hour requirements and continuous enrollment.

The goal of the program is to encourage students to remain full time and complete their academic programs within three years. This aligns with a national call to action and Ohio’s goals to increase the number of statewide college graduates by 20 percent by 2017.

“I had a criminal justice degree, but too little time with my family. Career switch. Graduated with a nursing degree from Tri-C. So rewarding. Loving it at the Cleveland Clinic and my family is happy, too.” — Dianna Geary
The most valuable assets a small-business owner can acquire are knowledge and insight. The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at Cuyahoga Community College offers small-business owners in Greater Cleveland the opportunity to participate in a practical business and management education program.

The 10,000 Small Businesses program counts Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett among its board members, and it is funded through Goldman Sachs and the Goldman Sachs Foundation. Tri-C is one of only 12 community colleges nationwide chosen to administer the program.

The goal of 10,000 Small Businesses is simple: create jobs. Owners of businesses that meet a set of requirements receive a scholarship to cover tuition and materials, roughly a $20,000 value. Working with other business professionals, they develop a customized growth plan and are given the opportunity and tools to access loans.

Additional support services are offered to participants through partnerships with national and local business organizations, professional service firms and the people of Goldman Sachs.

The Right Skills Now initiative launched at Tri-C provides eight- or 14-week training sessions with the opportunity to earn an eight-week paid internship at Swagelok, a global developer and provider of reliable fluid system solutions, headquartered in Solon. Students who successfully complete the program and internship will be offered a full-time position at the company.

Swagelok needs nearly 70 machine operators to fill openings at its plants in Solon, Highland Heights and Strongsville. The company also anticipates an additional 50 to 60 hires a year in the immediate future to support growth and to replace retirees.

“The training and development of a high-skilled manufacturing workforce is a priority at Swagelok,” said Sally Turner, the company’s vice president of human resources. “We know that this area offers a pool of motivated, hard-working individuals, and we’re excited to collaborate with Tri-C to take an innovative approach to training in our region.”

The Right Skills Now program is an acceleration of the skills certification system endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Those who successfully complete the program earn two nationally recognized credentials — the National Career Readiness Certificate and certification from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills.

The program focuses on CNC turning and milling skills, precision measurement, tools and gauges, bench work, layout, drawing, quality assurance and material composition.

Finding workers with those valuable skills has become increasingly difficult. An older workforce and retirements have helped to create a “talent crisis” in the manufacturing industry.

“The Right Skills Now program is an excellent model of the kind of partnerships that are needed to address the workforce challenges that many manufacturers are confronting,” said Dan Berry, president and CEO of MAGNET. “The program will help individuals quickly transition into career positions with Swagelok. MAGNET is pleased to be a partner, and applauds Swagelok and Tri-C for taking the steps necessary to implement this innovative training model.”

For more information, visit tri-c.edu/swagelok or call 216-987-3040.

“Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses gives you valuable skills for growing your business and the opportunity to access financial capital, powerful networking and help developing the skills to recognize new opportunities.” — David Hegenbarth
Years ago, Tri-C recognized the fast-growing need for qualified health care workers in Northeast Ohio and began building the facilities and recruiting the staff to address that need.

Now ranked No. 1 in Ohio and 13th in the nation in associate degrees conferred in health professions and related programs, Tri-C’s many and varied health care programs are helping the region move toward economic recovery.

Within the flagship health careers program, Tri-C’s nursing program distinguishes itself. Twenty-six percent of all degrees and 75 percent of all certificates granted by Tri-C are in nursing or health careers. Tri-C ranks seventh among all colleges in the nation and No. 1 in Ohio in awarding associate degrees in nursing. Furthermore, 95 percent of Tri-C nursing graduates report being employed and 94 percent of those are employed in their field of study.

Tri-C offers premier nursing facilities at the Eastern, Metropolitan and Westshore campuses, with a simulated hospital unit and Human Patient Simulators — computer-driven mannequins that represent all the physical characteristics of a patient.

In August the program was granted continuing accreditation status through 2022 by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The national accreditation, which followed a rigorous, months-long review process, signifies that the College’s Division of Nursing meets the highest educational standards required by the industry.

Many of the state’s finest hospitals — Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, MetroHealth, St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center — have a sizeable contingent of Tri-C graduates on their staffs.

Dave Bosley, a Navy veteran, took advantage of veterans’ programs at Tri-C and is on his way to earning a degree.

Navy veteran Dave Bosley had been out of school for 25 years when he decided to dip a toe in the water with Cuyahoga Community College’s Veterans Upward Bound program. Through VUB, the Lakewood resident took math and English refresher courses in the summer of 2011, which “gave me enough of an idea that I still had a brain left,” he said. That fall, the man who dropped out of college in California back in the 1980s enrolled full time at Tri-C. His goal is to continue to a four-year institution to pursue his career in social work.

Bosley is one of hundreds of United States veterans who have found a bridge from their former lives to a future with Tri-C’s Veterans Education Connection Center. Sponsored by AT&T and former Tri-C professor and veteran Bettie J. Baker, the center opened at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center in University Circle in 2010 with a mission to help veterans gain access to education and training options.

Bosley also got help there applying for tuition assistance through the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program.

The program is one of many that Tri-C presents in support of members of veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. The College has served approximately 24,000 veterans since opening in 1963, providing counseling, help with financial aid and GI Bill certification, recruitment activities, disability access, enrollment services and career planning.

“I came to Tri-C with 90 [college] credits, so I wasn’t able to use my Pell Grant after my second semester,” he said. “I was one of the first to be approved for the VRAP program.”

Bosley is looking at a new career born of his life experience and academic success: He has a 4.0 GPA and now knows he still has a brain for college.

For information on Tri-C’s Veterans Education Connection Center, call 216-987-4938 or visit tri-c.edu.

“I started at a four-year school. Life changed. Tri-C welcomed me as a mom and a student. Jumped from Tri-C to a four-year institution and a business degree. Graduated magna cum laude. Now working at Dollar Bank.” — Alisa Tyler
Advanced Technology Training Center  
3409 Woodland Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Brunswick University Center  
3605 Center Road  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Corporate College® East  
4400 Richmond Road  
Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128

Corporate College® West  
25425 Center Ridge Road  
Westlake, Ohio 44145

District Administrative Offices  
700 Carnegie Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Eastern Campus  
4250 Richmond Road  
Highland Hills, Ohio 44122

Hospitality Management Center at Public Square  
180 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Jerry Sue Thornton Center  
2500 East 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

* Multiple teal dots denote locations in close proximity in Downtown Cleveland

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