

# Tri-C TIMES

## A SPORTING CHANCE

Changes to Tri-C's athletics program will pass benefits to the College as a whole

## TRI-C JAZZFEST CLEVELAND

36th annual event  
slated July 9, 10 & 11  
in Playhouse Square



Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel  
Humanities Center

## *Largest Gift in Tri-C History*

\$10 million from Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and Mandel Supporting Foundations to focus on civic engagement

# The 36th Annual Tri-C JazzFest

July 9-11, 2015

Playhouse Square

PRESENTED BY

**KeyBank**



**TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW**



*Dominick Farinacci Quintet/Clayton-Hamilton  
Jazz Orchestra with special guest Take 6*

*Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra featuring Sheila E  
and Juan Escovedo*

*Ernie Krivda & the Fat Tuesday Big Band*

*Cyrille Aimée/Wycliffe Gordon and His International All-Stars*

*Centennial Tribute to Robert Lockwood, Jr. with  
Walter "Wolfman" Washington*

*Brian Culbertson/Brian Simpson's Smooth Jazz All Stars with  
Euge Groove, Maysa, Kim Waters and Peter White*

*Etienne Charles Calypso Review/Joey DeFrancesco Quartet*

*Warren Wolf Quartet/Tribute to Ray Brown with Benny Green,  
John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton*

*"Creole Joe" with C.J.Chenier, Ray Parker, Jr. and Nick Sample*



**For details and tickets | [www.tri-cjazzfest.com](http://www.tri-cjazzfest.com)**

**For passes, call 216-987-4049**

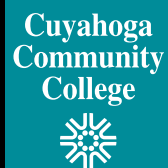
**PlayhouseSquare box office: 216-241-6000**



THE GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION



The Char and Chuck Fowler  
Family Foundation



TRI-C  
**JAZZ  
FEST**  
CLEVELAND



## Message from the President

**A**t Cuyahoga Community College, we believe in lifelong learning — from traditional students just out of high school to those returning to school after many years to obtain their first college degree. With that in mind, this issue of *Tri-C Times* focuses on students and the ways higher education has contributed to their enrichment.

First and foremost, I am pleased to share news of the recent \$10 million gift awarded to Tri-C by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation. This gift will allow us to place an even stronger emphasis on liberal arts education by encouraging scholarly engagement in the humanities. We are extremely grateful for the foundation's support and are pleased to partner with it to invest in the future of our region by supporting academic excellence.

Our First Year Experience (FYE) program, which moves into its third semester of implementation in fall 2015, has already produced significant results among first-time students. Though the FYE program is customizable to individual student needs, its four major goals remain the same: to connect, engage, plan and succeed.

Tri-C's sports teams comprise outstanding young athletes, a fact unknown among many in the local community. The way these students balance academic excellence with their extracurricular activities is admirable. See pages 8-11 to learn about changes to the College's athletic scholarship program and the College's athletic offerings.

JazzFest 2015 marks the 36th anniversary of this local celebration of jazz music, which has provided educational opportunities to people of all ages and all walks of life since 1980. Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland is known as the region's premier event for jazz education, offering free cultural access to our community's underserved populations through outreach programming. See pages 12-15 for more information on this exciting three-day event.

This issue also features an overview of the College's new and improved website, which can now be viewed on any device thanks to responsive design technology. The full array of photos (featuring actual Tri-C students) and menu options are available to current and potential students, faculty, staff, and the general public whenever and wherever they choose to access the site, broadening Tri-C's reach even further.

The best thing any one of us can do to promote our own personal and professional growth, regardless of age or status, is to continuously seek knowledge. My hope is that each of you is able to learn something new from the stories you are about to read.

Sincerely,

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

**Alex Johnson, Ph.D.**  
President



Jesus Denizard pitches and plays outfield for the Tri-C baseball team. He is one of many student athletes at the College.

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; or call 216-987-4322; or email [mary.gygli@tri-c.edu](mailto:mary.gygli@tri-c.edu).

SPRING 2015

- 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 Hts., Ohio 44128
- Corporate College® West  
25425 Center Ridge Road  
Westlake, Ohio 44145
- District Administrative Services  
700 Carnegie Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
- Eastern Campus  
4250 Richmond Road  
Highland Hills, Ohio 44122
- 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

## COVER STORY: LARGEST GIFT IN TRI-C HISTORY

\$10 million from Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and Mandel Supporting Foundations to focus on civic engagement

6

### A SPORTING CHANCE



Changes to Tri-C's athletics program will pass benefits to the College as a whole

8

### BRING THE HEAT



Tri-C JazzFest's sizzling line-up promises a hot time this summer in the city

12



**Editor**  
Mary Gygli  
**Copy Editor**  
Jarrod Zickefoose  
**Writers**  
Beth Cieslik  
John Horton  
Karen Sandstrom  
Jarrod Zickefoose  
**Contributors**  
Tamara London  
Michelle Thomas  
**Photographers**  
Joe Darwall  
Tamara London  
Janet Macoska  
David Richard  
Cody York

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
UPFRONT	5
TRI-C'S NEW WEBSITE	16
NEW CENTURY SCHOLAR	19
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT	20
SPRING COMMENCEMENT	21
LERNER CENTER FOR VETERANS SERVICES DEDICATION	22
ALUMNI	24
MEET ME @ TRI-C	29
#MYTRI-CSTORY	30

Cover: An illustration of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center on the Eastern Campus.

## Proposed Tuition Reimbursement

**Cuyahoga  
Community  
College**



® A program proposed by Cuyahoga Community College would offer a financial incentive to full-time students taking heavier course loads as part of an effort to increase retention and graduation rates. The program would provide qualified students a reward equal to 50 percent of tuition for each successfully completed credit hour over 12 credit hours during fall or spring semesters. The College's Board of Trustees approved the program in January, and it will begin fall semester 2015 with approval by the Ohio Board of Regents. It aligns with a national call to action and Ohio's goals to increase the number of statewide college graduates by 20 percent by 2017.

## Littleton Recognized at Connector's Choice Awards

Hugh Littleton was named the 2014 Corporate Event Keynote Speaker of the Year at the Connector's Choice Awards, an annual event hosted by *CBC Magazine*. The occasion recognizes professionals in the event, networking and hospitality industries, and nominations are submitted by industry peers. Littleton is a senior training specialist with Corporate College® and a sought-after keynote speaker in the Northeast Ohio region.



## College Earns Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Cuyahoga Community College for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. The College has received the award for seven consecutive years. In order to earn the award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that functions as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan and a communications device.



*The wrong date was noted for this award in the previous issue. We regret the error.*



## TRI-C STUDENT WINS CLEVELAND'S CULINARY CLASH

Magdalis Galarza, a culinary student at Cuyahoga Community College, represented Cleveland in the 2015 Ultimate Culinary Clash, a cooking and scholarship competition sponsored by InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts. The finals were held May 6 in San Francisco, where Galarza tested her skills against other cooks from North and South America.

Galarza qualified for the Ultimate Culinary Clash by winning a local competition that took place at Table 45 at InterContinental Hotel Cleveland, where she impressed guest judges and diners with her dishes. Her menu featured an appetizer of shrimp ceviche and golden brown coconut arepa; an entrée of grilled skirt steak with creamy horseradish aioli and potato-cauliflower fritter; and a dessert of passion fruit mousse with lace almond cookie and dark chocolate.

# THE JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10 MILLION TO TRI-C TO ESTABLISH THE JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL HUMANITIES CENTER

## *Gift is largest in the history of Cuyahoga Community College*

**T**he Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and the Mandel Supporting Foundations have awarded a \$10 million gift to the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation to establish the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center.

The donation — the largest ever received by the College — will create a center focused on creating civically responsible citizens who will lead Northeast Ohio toward a stronger economic and social future.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center will bring together faculty, students and community members to participate in classes, seminars, lectures and special events that will contribute to the

development of civic engagement.

The College's existing Liberal Arts and Performing Arts building on the Eastern Campus in Highland Hills will be renamed the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center. A renovation on the second floor will create a technology-rich environment that includes areas for individual computer use, collaborative computer-based learning and teleconferencing, along with dedicated classroom space and areas for collaborative study, quiet study and individual learning.

“Over the last 13 years, our foundation has supported Tri-C because we believe in the College's mission. We are pleased to join President Alex Johnson and the Tri-C leadership team in producing enthusiastic graduates for our

community,” said Morton Mandel, chairman of the Mandel Foundation. “Our foundation is committed to leadership and the advancement of higher education, and this grant furthers that mission.”

The gift will establish a permanent endowment within the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation to support the center and its specific initiatives. It will establish a chair for a dean of humanities to lead the center.

In addition, a Scholars Academy will be formed to create a holistic experience providing innovative educational activities to high-performing students. It is anticipated that at least 200 students will be selected annually for the academy and offered scholarships by the Foundation.



“Cuyahoga Community College will now place an even stronger emphasis on liberal arts education. Scholarly engagement in the humanities is indispensable for producing well-rounded students who are prepared to transition into public and private four-year institutions and become informed citizens and community and national leaders,” Tri-C President Alex Johnson said. “We are extremely grateful for the generous support of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and the Mandel Supporting Foundations. We are pleased to partner with them to invest in the future of our region by supporting excellence in students dedicated to bettering our world.”

“The importance of an informed and well-educated citizenry cannot be underestimated,” said J. Michael

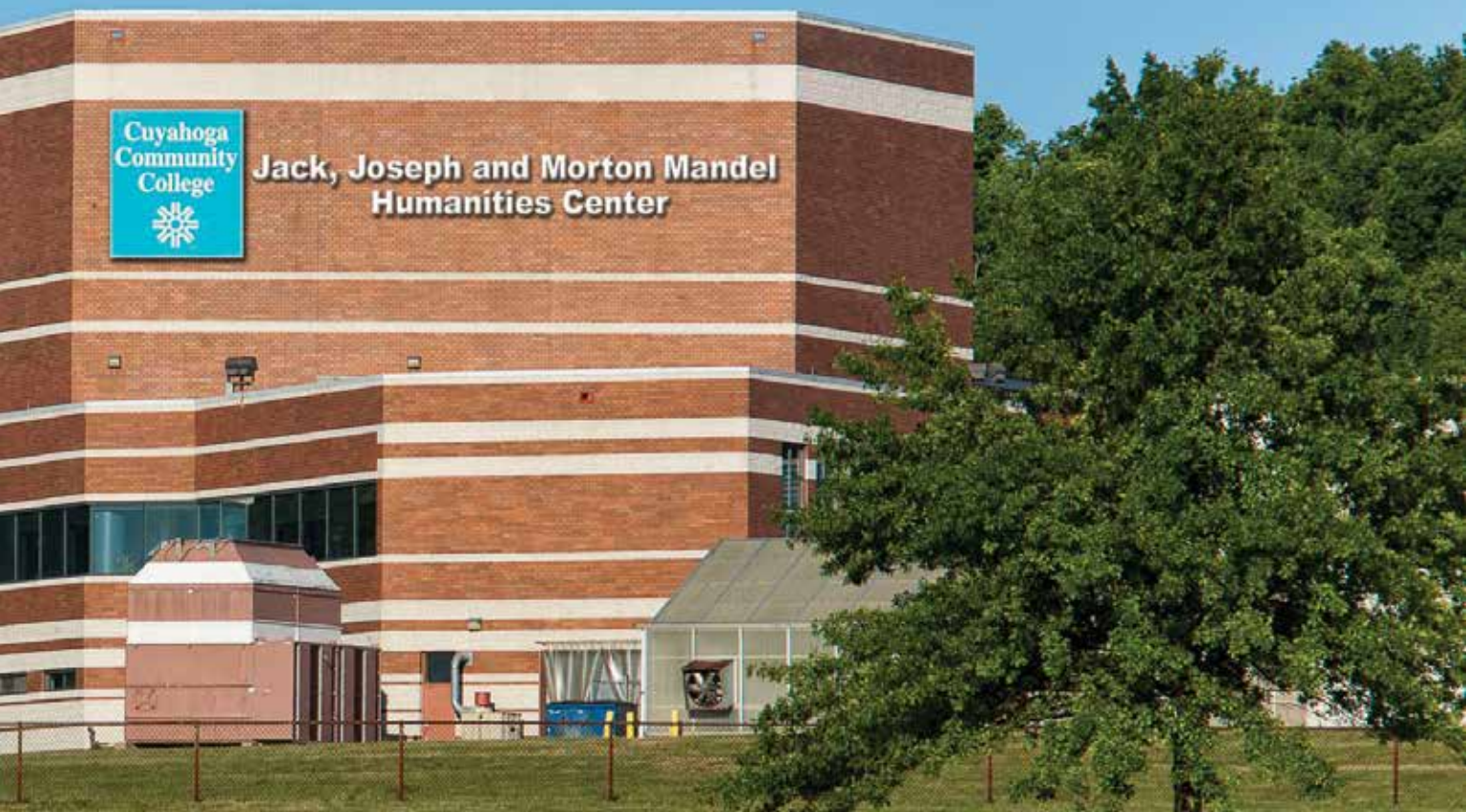
Thomson, Eastern Campus president. “The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center will be a critical resource in developing the next generation of leaders in our own communities and beyond.”

The Mandel Foundation has been a long-term partner of Tri-C through support of the College’s Mandel Leadership Development Program for faculty and staff. The College will continue to enhance and maintain The Mandel Leadership Development Program.

Tri-C also will create a Center Advisory Board to identify and address challenges that impact local communities and provide feedback to faculty and students on their community service and experiential learning activities.

## ABOUT THE JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL FOUNDATION

The primary mission of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation is to provide outstanding leadership for the nonprofit world. The Foundation supports leadership education programs in its own institutions and at selected universities. The Foundation believes that exceptional leaders are the critical factor that enables organizations to contribute most significantly to society.



# a SPORTING CHANCE

## *Changes to Tri-C's athletics program will pass benefits to the College as a whole*

**K**aren Barrientos had a decision to make. The senior and long-distance runner at Lakeside High School in Ashtabula had three colleges on her short list. All offered scholarships based on her athletic and academic performance.

She carefully considered her options. Then she chose Cuyahoga Community College.

The first-year Tri-C student received a scholarship that covered her tuition and books. It made the deal for her, and until recently, it would have been unheard of.

For the first time since 1992, Tri-C has increased the amount of athletic scholarship money for students. The move will have far-reaching implications — not just for Tri-C's sports teams, but for student success College-wide.

The additional scholarship money targets students who are already likely to succeed academically. Student-athletes exhibit higher semester-to-semester and year-over-year enrollment than other students, as involvement in extra-curricular activities tends to lead to higher retention rates.

Student-athletes also must be enrolled full time, which increases the likelihood of a timely graduation, and if they fall below a C in any course they are required to work with a tutor.

"Students athletics at a community college is actually a student success strategy," said J. Michael Thomson, Ph.D., Eastern Campus president.

Thomson, along with trustee Bruce Murphy, spearheaded the move to increase scholarship money and the visibility of College athletics. Tri-C made more than \$362,000 available for athletic scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year, up from \$89,000 the year before.

Private support provides additional assistance for student-athletes. For example, Edward Crawford and Park-Ohio have funded scholarships for members of the men's basketball team who meet certain academic criteria.

Previously, most student-athletes might get \$500. They now can receive scholarships that cover their full in-county tuition.

The change brings Tri-C's athletic scholarship money up to the median level of other colleges in the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference. This will allow coaches to meaningfully recruit student-athletes, making teams more competitive.

The move constitutes a major facelift to an athletics program that many didn't know existed.

Tri-C fields teams in seven sports: men's baseball, men's soccer, men's and women's basketball, women's softball, women's volleyball and women's track and cross country. The teams compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). All are Division II except women's track and cross country, which are Division I.



Nicole Fritz plays outfield for the College's softball team, and Karen Barrientos runs cross country.





Clockwise from top left: From left, Tyler Lienerth, John Izquierdo and Jesus Denizard celebrate during a recent game; Jacob Skidmore guns for a strike; and Brandon Fatsie makes a play at short stop.



The women's softball team huddles (left), while the men's basketball team battles Edison Community College.



Triumphs and titles are not unusual. The men's basketball team won a national title in 2004 with a roster that included the team's current head coach, Michael Duncan. The softball team won district and regional tournaments in 2013 to earn an invitation to the NJCAA Division II National Championship, capping the best season in the school's history.

Tri-C's baseball team won district championships in 2010 and 2011 and holds numerous conference titles. Former Cleveland Indians pitcher Jeff Shaw took the mound for Tri-C before going on to save 203 games in a 12-year career in Major League Baseball.

Just this past March, the track team's Atiyah Herron finished sixth in the 800-meter run at the NJCAA national competition. The distance medley team — which included Barrientos, a cross-country All-American in the fall — also finished sixth at nationals.

The Tri-C soccer team even has an international flair with players from Jamaica, Uzbekistan and Japan.

Thomson likes to think of sports as building a campus atmosphere and contributing to the "first choice" strategy that makes Tri-C the top selection for students exploring higher education.

"The fiscal reality of higher education is that the public four-year degree is getting further and further away from the median salary of the average Ohioan. People are recognizing we are a first-choice college. You come to us; we provide a great first two years," Thomson said.

"As we emerge more as a first choice, there is an expectation that we would look and feel more like where our students are going. That way students are looking at four-year schools and comparing them to our environs. If we have a more vibrant student life — and that includes athletics, cultural events, other activities — students recognize that, and it will draw students here."

Jennifer Ellis, director of student life and athletics at Metro Campus, said that, right now, more students

attend basketball games on weekdays than on weekends. There are fewer students on campus on weekends, and Tri-C's teams don't have the kind of profile across campus to bring students out on Saturdays. Doubling up women's and men's games on the same day has helped, yet the fact remains: Tri-C sports have not traditionally been a strong draw.

"[Sports] really should be more prominent, because I think there are a lot of students who, if they knew about it, might want to go sit and watch a game," Ellis said.

More competitive athletes will help that, too.

"It's been difficult for us to compete with other schools," said Don Cox, women's track and cross country coach. "We would lose kids."

While lack of scholarship funds played a part in that, the program's disjointed character has not helped. For years, each campus's sports teams were largely autonomous. At one point, there were two men's basketball teams, one at Metro and one at Western Campus. They would play against each other.

The College used to compete in more sports, too, including wrestling, men's bowling, men's track and men's cross country. The wrestling team won a national title in 1976.

"I came to Tri-C as a student in the fall of '67," said Rita McKinley, director of student life and athletics at Eastern Campus. "They had the teams and cheerleaders. Metro was really down at the Huron Road building. Western Campus was at Crile hospital. Because we were playing as two separate teams, Western's colors were gold and blue. They were called the Chargers. Metro Campus was brown and gold, and they were the Cougars. I know because I used to be a cheerleader when I was a student here."

Each sport still lives at a specific campus, though they're unified in team name (Challengers) and colors (teal, black and white). Women's basketball and volleyball call Eastern Campus home.

Metropolitan Campus has men's basketball and women's cross country and track. Western Campus claims baseball, soccer and softball.

Each campus has a director of student life and athletics. Most student-athletes attend the campus where their sport is located.

But the athletics program as a whole is now poised to become a major player at Tri-C.

"It's not like it's my master plan to hang championship banners from winning the basketball title four years in a row. Although that would be great, it isn't the focus. The focus is student completion," Thomson said. "Athletes go to school full time; they are on a schedule; they have support services around them. Women who are coming to us to play volleyball and basketball are going to get a degree. That's what we are after."

And a graduating contingent of athletes is not negligible. Consider that the men's baseball team has 30 players; soccer has 20, softball 15. With an average of 20 athletes per team, that's 160 students that will likely earn degrees at Tri-C. About 1,400 students petitioned the College for degrees and certificates for fall 2014 Commencement.

Barrientos, who is majoring in health sciences, considers herself a student and an athlete in equal measure. In her first year, Barrientos broke Tri-C's cross country record with a time of 18:24 in the 5,000-meter race.

"It takes just as much time in athletics as it does in academics," she said. "With all the traveling we have to do, it kind of interferes with academics. You have to be disciplined."

She added that she has every intention of earning her Tri-C degree.

Mark Rodriguez, director of student life and athletics at Western Campus, said there were no immediate plans to add or subtract sports at the College. He pointed out that sports are not a revenue source for Tri-C, and adding a football team, for example, didn't make sense because it would be cost-prohibitive and there would be no other teams for it to play.

But those teams that do exist at Tri-C stand to gain immensely from the recent changes. The larger athletic scholarships were first available this academic year, so the next two years will likely be transformative as Tri-C recruits competitively and builds its teams.

Those athletic scholarships in turn will benefit the College as a whole through student success. Trustee Murphy points out that a robust athletics program might also create alumni fundraising opportunities.

"I really think we are moving in the right direction," Ellis said.

"It doesn't just help the athletes," Thomson said. "It helps the campuses create an atmosphere that draws students who desire a more vibrant student life."



Assistant coaches Jordan Duke (with clipboard) and Thomas Coleman review a play with the team.

## NOTABLE TRI-C ATHLETES

**Mike Duncan**, a member of Tri-C's 2004 men's national championship basketball team, just completed his first season as head basketball coach at the College.

**Darrel Harris**, former Tri-C men's basketball player, plays professional basketball in Poland.

**Anita Jones**, former Tri-C women's basketball player (1990-92), is now an assistant coach for the women's basketball team at the College, an adjunct faculty member at Eastern and Metropolitan campuses and a Cuyahoga County employee.

**Trevor Ruffin**, former Tri-C men's basketball player, played in the NBA with the Phoenix Suns and Philadelphia 76ers.

**Jeff Shaw**, former Tri-C men's baseball player, was a MLB relief pitcher (1990-2001) for the Cleveland Indians, Montreal Expos, Cincinnati Reds and Los Angeles Dodgers. He was an All Star in 1998 and 2001.



Outfielder Jennifer Pierce takes a cut at the ball.

**Marcus Taylor**, former Tri-C men's basketball player, is the current men's basketball team trainer with the College and started a local sports training business.

**Ben Wallace**, former Tri-C men's basketball player, played at Virginia Union University and in the NBA with the Washington Bullets (later Wizards), Orlando Magic, Detroit Pistons, Chicago Bulls and Cleveland Cavaliers. He was a four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year and won an NBA Championship in 2004 with the Pistons.

# BRING *the* HEAT!

*Tri-C JazzFest's sizzling line-up promises a hot time this summer in the city*

**E**verything got a little warmer last year, when Tri-C JazzFest moved out of drizzly April and into a sun-splashed weekend in June.

This year, festival director Terri Pontremoli's mantra is "hot, hot, hot," as the 36th annual Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, presented by KeyBank, moves to the weekend of July 9 – 11. Pontremoli is hoping for another toasty weekend, weatherwise, and she's planning for a sizzling three days of music at Playhouse Square.

The lineup is rich with double bills and a wide range of styles, from straight-ahead jazz to Latin, calypso, Creole, blues and smooth.

Trumpeter Dominick Farinacci and his quintet will kick things off July 9 at the Connor Palace with a 7:30 p.m. show that culminates with the revered Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and special guests Take 6. Ten Grammy Awards have helped make Take 6 the most awarded vocal group of its time. Afterward, JazzFest members and donors of \$100 or more are invited to enjoy drinks and nibbles with some of the musicians.

On Friday, July 10, indoor shows will feature a centennial celebration of the great Robert Lockwood Jr. with Walter "Wolfman" Washington (5:30 p.m., Ohio Theatre); a smooth jazz blockbuster with Brian Culbertson and Brian Simpson's Smooth Jazz All-Stars (7 p.m., Connor Palace); and "Creole Joe," a project featuring C.J. Chenier on accordion and vocals, bassist Nick Sample and Ray Parker Jr. on guitar and vocals (9:45 p.m., Ohio).

Saturday, July 11, the music starts at 1 p.m. with "Big Band Party on Planet Q," a tribute to producer Quincy Jones by Ernie Krivda and his Fat Tuesday Big Band (Ohio Theatre). Next up is a double bill featuring singer Cyrille Aimée and trombonist Wycliffe Gordon and his International All-Stars (2:30 p.m., Hanna Theatre); and





Clockwise from top left: Benny Green; artist-in-residence John Clayton with Tri-C Jazz Studies students; Sheila E.; and Wycliffe Gordon.

## BLU notes

### Tri-C grad expands horizons with new club venture

Before he was vice president of talent and events for BLU Jazz+ in Akron, Mike Wyatt II was a student at Tri-C, where he studied saxophone in the Jazz Studies program. Wyatt went on to graduate from the Berklee College of Music and lives in Boston with his wife, Emilie, and their children, Jackson and Marlowe.

BLU Jazz+ opened Oct. 24, 2014, with two sold-out sets featuring Josh Rzepka (trumpet), Dan Wilson (guitar), Dan Pappalardo (bass) and John Suntken (drums). The club also was home to a day of Tri-C JazzFest education as part of this year's DownBeat Invitational in April. In an email interview, Wyatt shared some details of his journey as a musician and businessman.

### How did BLU Jazz+ get started?

Akron's famed Howard Street District was once a hotbed for hosting the biggest jazz names during the height of the rubber industry (including the likes of Cab Calloway, Billie Holiday and Wes Montgomery). Our goal with BLU Jazz+ was to create a venue to showcase local/regional talent, along with internationally recognized artists, for Northeast Ohio.

### When were you at Tri-C and Berklee?

I was at Tri-C from 2003 to 2005, studying saxophone with Ernie Krivda and other courses and ensembles with Joe Hunter, Steve Enos, Jackie Warren and Lee Bush. I played in the sax section of Ernie's Fat Tuesday Big Band as well as with my own groups during my time in Cleveland.

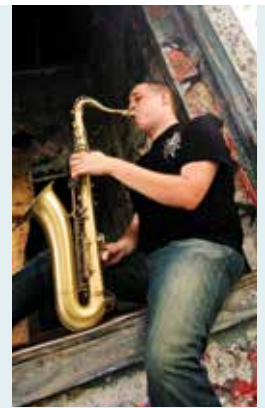
After moving to Boston for school, I had the opportunity to play in some great groups at Berklee. My most rewarding opportunities have been with the Beantown Swing Orchestra, an 18-piece classic swing big band. (I had a cameo in the 2008 movie *My Best Friend's Girl*, featuring Kate Hudson, Dane Cook and Alec Baldwin.) I still perform with that group and with my own group, the Mike Wyatt Quartet.

### What did you hope to do with your career when you were at Tri-C?

During my time at Tri-C, I was immersed in the culture of the gigging professional musician — honing my craft, improving my skills with practice, ear training, music theory, arranging and jazz history. While I still continue to focus in all of those areas, I've begun exploring entrepreneurship. I also started a music software company in 2010 called BandFrame (<https://bandframe.com>), a suite of Web design tools that allows musicians to create stunning Web spaces in minutes.

### Top five jazz artists?

Ella Fitzgerald, Stan Getz, Dexter Gordon, Oscar Peterson, Frank Sinatra. I listen to modern day jazz artists, too, but my "top 5" are reserved for the legends.





the Warren Wolf Quartet followed by a Tribute to Ray Brown with Benny Green, Jeff Hamilton and JazzFest artist-in-residence John Clayton (5 p.m., Ohio).

The Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra, featuring Escovedo's percussionist daughter Sheila E., will take the stage at the Connor Palace at 7:30 p.m. The final ticketed concert will be a high-energy double bill with

the Etienne Charles Calypso Review and a quartet led by jazz organist Joey DeFrancesco (9:30 p.m., Ohio).

In addition to all those indoor shows, Northeast Ohio bands will keep the outdoor stage hopping — and the dance floor shaking — from 3 p.m. to midnight both Friday and Saturday.

Cleveland's celebrated food scene plays a big role in JazzFest this year, as theater district restaurants bring tasty grab-and-go dishes to their patios. In addition, Tri-C's Hospitality Management program will provide cooking demonstrations on Friday and Saturday.

And, as last year, outdoor events feature activities for children, including a KidBop tent, presented in partnership with the Cleveland Public Library.

Tickets and packages are now on sale. Visit [www.tri-cjazzfest.com](http://www.tri-cjazzfest.com) or call the Playhouse Square box office at 216-241-6000. For information and to purchase the JazzFest all-festival pass, call Cliffie Jones at 216-987-4049.

## EDUCATION A MAJOR COMPONENT *of* JAZZFEST

**O**n a chilly Saturday in March, a sextet of Tri-C student musicians hits the boards at the Metropolitan Campus Mainstage Theatre and swings into "What Is This Thing Called Love." In the audience is a smattering of the musically curious, who have come for the pleasure of watching a master class.

But the audience that most matters to the students right now is sitting on stage: the revered bassist and band leader John Clayton and his pianist son, Gerald. The two are sharing artist-in-residence duties this year for the 36th annual Tri-C JazzFest, presented by KeyBank.

The tune wraps up and the Claytons congratulate the musicians on their work. Then John Clayton approaches jazz studies student Jessica Yafanaro and spends a solid five minutes demonstrating a better way to position her left arm to hold the neck of the bass. He has her do it her way, then shows her his. "By the mere fact of changing the position," he tells her, "we have complete fingerboard access. We want the bass to work for us; we don't want to work for the bass."

Moments like this have been happening for 36 years in workshops, master classes and jazz camps at Tri-C.

"Education was always part of JazzFest, right from the start," said festival director Terri Pontremoli.

Festival founder Dr. Thom Horning told jazz historian Joe Mosbrook that trumpeter Clark Terry is considered the father of jazz education at Tri-C. "He spent 10 days

here in 1985," Horning said. "We went from school to school throughout Cuyahoga County, visiting dozens of school bands. He was so energetic, but he collapsed after the 10 days. We ran him ragged."

Last year, as this year, JazzFest moved from spring to summer. But April remains the center for jazz education at Tri-C. The DownBeat Invitational this year drew hundreds of pre-college students to the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus April 14 and 15 for workshops and critiques. New this year was a third day of education on April 16, this time at BLU Jazz+ in Akron.

Among the treats were performances by student musicians from Berklee College of Music in Boston. Tri-C works closely with Berklee to create a curriculum that allows students here to transfer seamlessly if they complete the work and audition successfully. (Seven Tri-C students have been accepted at Berklee for this fall.)

The presence of the Berklee ensemble is meaningful to both the high school musicians and to Tri-C students. "It gives (young students) a goal, something to aspire to," Pontremoli said. "They see that they can play well not only individually, but cohesively."

And while the school year might be over, Tri-C jazz education is not. This year's JazzFest summer jazz camp for students 12 to 18 takes place June 29 through July 11, and participants will have a chance play on the outdoor stage at the festival.

# SHADES of INSPIRATION

*Student's JazzFest poster shines light on creative process*



Good design often looks inevitable, as if it fell from the creator's mind fully formed.

With its summery yellow background and floating sunglasses, Liz Kennedy's poster for the 36th annual Tri-C JazzFest has that feel of easy brilliance, but it's all an illusion. "The final is actually version 15," the designer said.

Kennedy, a 2015 graduate of Tri-C, earned an Associate of Applied Business degree with a concentration in graphic design. As part of a spring semester visual communications course, she and about a dozen classmates each completed JazzFest poster designs for consideration. Festival organizers chose hers for the way it conveyed the feeling of the season.

"In addition to being associated with summer activities, shades have long been a part of the image of cool jazz musicians," said Terri Pontremoli, JazzFest director. "Liz's poster is great fun for those reasons."

Her process included a look at previous years' poster designs, which led to one early decision.

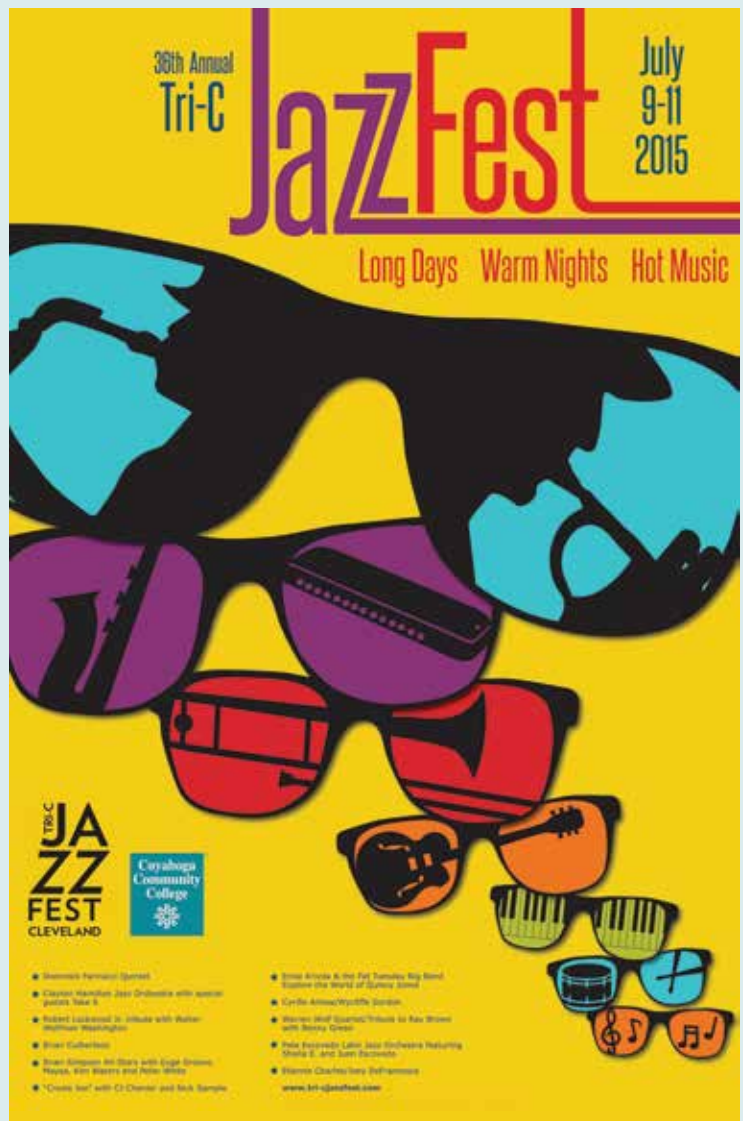
"I didn't want the instrument to be the main focus," Kennedy said. "I did a little research online and I watched [jazz] videos. I noticed that everybody wore sunglasses. Outside, inside, it was night, it was day — it didn't matter. It seemed to be the thing that everybody did."

Then came the real work.

"It started out with just one big pair and a lot more color and movement happening in the background," she said. Eventually, the focus became the glasses themselves, with instruments reflected in the lenses. "I'm really happy with the way it turned out," she said.

Kennedy is also happy to be following her heart. A 2003 graduate of Cleveland's John Marshall High School, she spent a year at Ohio State University racking up debt in pursuit of an accounting degree. "I was bored out of my mind," she said. "That's when I decided to stop wasting time and spending money."

She left school, found a job at a law firm and paid



off her bills. Three years ago, she started at Tri-C with a better plan for her education.

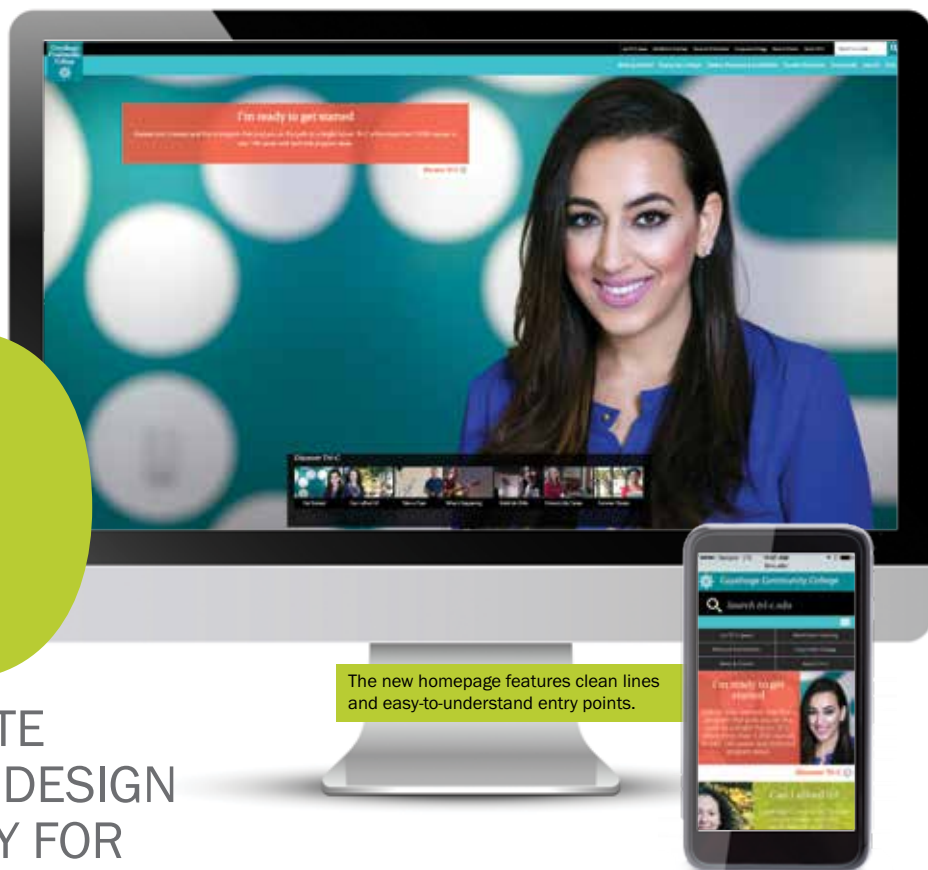
"I've always been creative," she said. "Graphic design is something I should have done right out of high school, but I didn't have the guts and motivation."

Her classes in visual communications and design honed her skills and introduced her to career avenues she hadn't considered. She discovered she loves packaging design, for instance, and enjoyed a project that involved developing brand identity for a line of barbeque sauces.

With school completed, Kennedy looks forward to building a new life with her fiancé. (They're considering a spring 2016 wedding.) And at this point, she said, "my plan is to find a position in the field doing something creative. I don't have a specific company in mind. But doing something creative is what I need in my life."

# 20

## TRI-C'S NEW WEBSITE FEATURES A CLEAN DESIGN AND FUNCTIONALITY FOR ALL DEVICES



**L**ate last year, Cuyahoga Community College unveiled a redesigned website. The former site, last updated in 2010, was looking dated, and it couldn't effectively meet the needs of people accessing it on mobile devices.

So the College's Integrated Communications and Information Technology Services departments began a roughly year-and-a-half-long process of reviewing the old site and developing and implementing a new one.

It was no easy task.

The team had a few goals in mind: make the site friendly to mobile devices, update its appearance and, where needed, update its information.

"In addition, we wanted to have a versatile technology," said Gerard Hourigan, vice president and chief information officer of information technology for the College. "The primary goal from the technology side was to deliver a tool which supported an array of platforms including mobile smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc. We also wanted to provide our internal users a flexible and easy-to-use platform with which to deliver current and relevant content."

Leading the redesign effort were Hourigan; Lisa Dobransky, director of content at Tri-C; and Standish Stewart, executive director and chief information officer of enterprise application services.

"Our Web analytics showed a steady increase in the number of visitors using mobile devices; therefore, it was important to design a new site that could provide the best user experience possible, regardless of the device used," Stewart said.

"We knew that in order to meet the needs of our external population we had to create a site that was rich in content but easy to comprehend," Dobransky said. "During the planning stages, we did our due diligence and left no stone unturned. Before the design began, we conducted surveys of students, faculty, staff and the community asking for their feedback about what they liked and disliked about our old site and what they would like to see on the new site."

The group, working with staff within their departments, contracted with The Adcom Group to design the look of the new site. The back end uses



a customized content management system, coded and built in-house, that gives the College full control of the site. This allows greater flexibility for future upgrades and enhancements while also making the site more secure.

The back end offers page managers a wide variety of design options along with an interface that is easier to use. The launch included an ongoing effort to train content providers on how to use the new site.

“In the past, if a particular author wanted a special feature on the site, the IT department would have to create a special template for it. The site’s features and layouts were locked down. With the new content management system, each page is customizable,” Dobransky said.

The new website also incorporates responsive design, meaning it automatically adjusts to the device a visitor is using to access it, whether it’s a smartphone, tablet or full-size computer screen.

“The responsive design is the best feature, and it comes at an opportune time. Google has announced a change to its algorithm that will give higher search ranking to sites that are mobile friendly,” Dobransky said.

Simple, clean and easy to navigate, the site is also vibrant and inviting. It employs a primary color palette of teal, green, red, fuchsia, purple, orange, yellow, blue and slate. Focus groups were used to make navigation intuitive.

“While both the Integrated Communications and Information Technology Services teams had to learn new software, the biggest challenge was reviewing the website content and developing a method for organizing and displaying this content in the new site layout,” Stewart said.

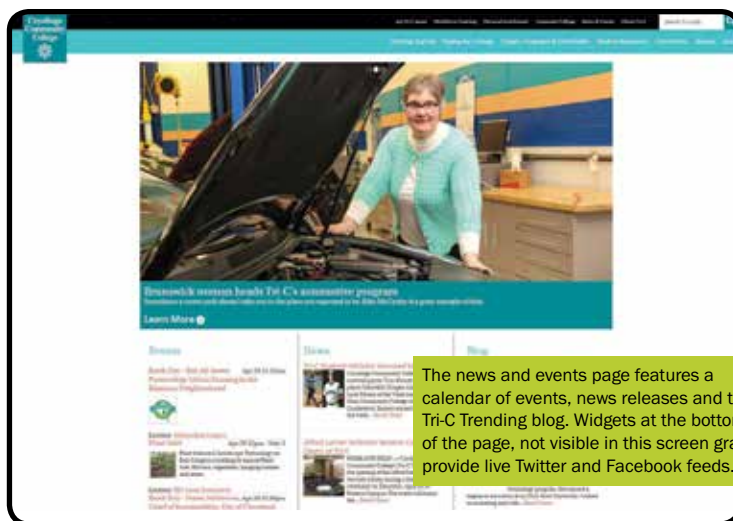
The final stages of redesigning the site involved usability testing.

New visitors find their way into the site by first establishing what they are looking for at the College. Basic entry points include “Get Started,” “Can I Afford It?,” “Take a Class,” “What’s Happening,” “Build Job Skills,” “Enhance My Career” and “Summer Classes.” The site includes news, program descriptions, access to course catalogs, stories, photos, a blog and more.

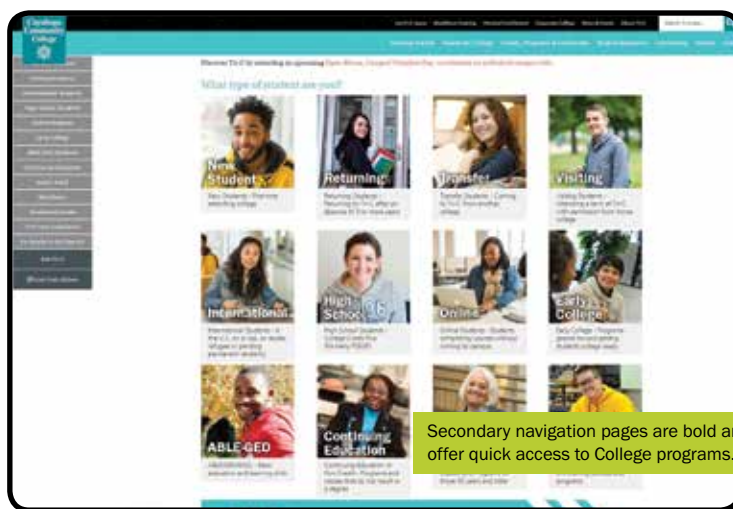
“My favorite part of the new site is the mobile view. The Tri-C site lives and breathes on any device used and truly helps us to meet students, both potential and current, where they are,” Stewart said.

The Corporate College® site, which used to exist independent of the College’s site, is now integrated with the Tri-C website.

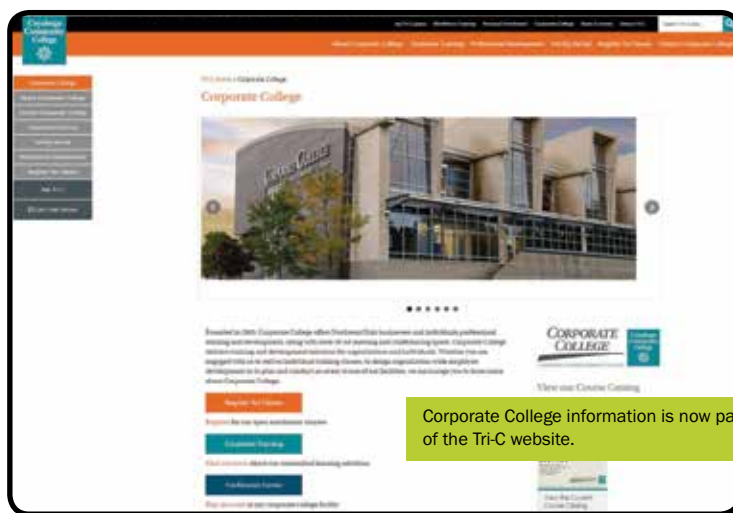
Tri-C’s website, www.tri-c.edu, is the College’s most heavily read publication. Almost 4 million people visited the site last year.



The news and events page features a calendar of events, news releases and the Tri-C Trending blog. Widgets at the bottom of the page, not visible in this screen grab, provide live Twitter and Facebook feeds.



Secondary navigation pages are bold and offer quick access to College programs.



Corporate College information is now part of the Tri-C website.

“From the consumer side, it was a strategic decision to give the new site a completely new and fresh look and feel which caters to the population outside the immediate walls of the College,” Hourigan said. “It was specifically designed to promote the College to potential students and the community at large.”

# FIRST YEAR? *check!*

With one year under their belts, students reflect, look to the future

**S**tudents learn a lot the first year of college, and the academic material is only part of it. Then there's the whole how-to-manage-college part. *Tri-C Times* checked in with three freshmen featured in fall and winter editions to find out how they viewed their first year and what they had planned for this summer.

Robert Scuba's summer plans were up in the air at the end of March. He was considering applying for an internship, though he said he was unsure where, and that he might take Calculus II.

Ask if he had anything fun planned, he said, "I do play. Don't worry about that."

Scuba, 19, characterized his first year as challenging but not at all undoable. "It's difficult, but it's not like you are pushed into something insane," he said.

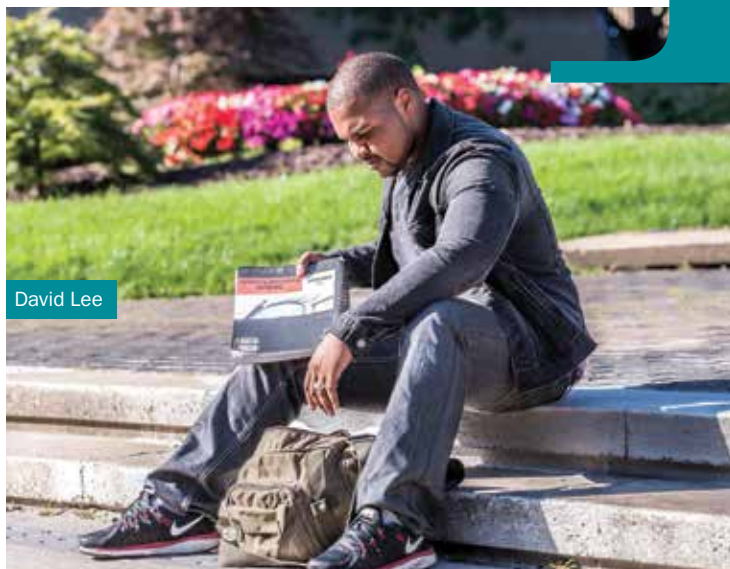
He said that having one year under his belt will make things "that much smoother" come fall.

For David Lee, 20, the big spring semester struggle has been a music reading class. He's never had music lessons, so the material is all brand new, he said. He found himself turning away from that material for a while so he could concentrate on algebra and English. His dance class has been fun, he said.

This summer he plans to join Iron First Boxing Academy and hopes to earn an apprenticeship in tattooing. He plans to return in fall with a renewed sense of determination and focus.

The lessons of his first year as a college student are, "Focus more, be more persistent as far as studying," he said. "I've been doing pretty good, though."

Zac Toth's first year went "very well," he said. He was able to maintain a 4.0 GPA, so little will change in his routine for his second year. "My first year taught me that everything I am doing, from my study habits to my time-management skills, has been done correctly," said Toth, 19.



Between now and fall semester, he will work for the recreation department in the city of Parma, "the best place in the world." He is also looking forward to playing whiffle ball and beach volleyball with friends. His sister is getting married this summer, too.

"My first year at Tri-C went very well," Toth said. "It has better prepared me for other aspects of my life like coaching and working."

# TRI-C STUDENT NAMED OHIO'S 2015 NEW CENTURY SCHOLAR

## *Hannah Kiraly tops in state*

**C**uyahoga Community College student Hannah Kiraly has been named Ohio's 2015 New Century Scholar after posting the state's top application score among nominees to the All-U.S.A. Community College Academic Team.

The Lakewood resident is one of only 50 New Century Scholars from across the United States and American Samoa. More than 1,700 students from more than 1,000 community colleges were nominated for the honor.

Judges with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society scholarship program considered grades, leadership, activities and — most importantly — how students extended their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

Given that, it's easy to see how Kiraly rose to the top.

Kiraly spent the past year as president of the Chi Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Tri-C's Western Campus in Parma. As leader of the 200-member group, she organized multiple community service projects, including a fundraiser with deep, personal meaning.

Money raised at the chapter's fall haunted house went to the Alzheimer's Association. Kiraly's grandmother lives with the disease.

"You don't understand the impact on a family until you have been through it," Kiraly said. "My grandmother has influenced me in so many ways. I wanted to give back to the Alzheimer's Association, which has helped her."

Kiraly also ran for Tri-C's nationally ranked women's cross country and

"You don't understand the impact on a family until you have been through it. My grandmother has influenced me in so many ways. I wanted to give back to the Alzheimer's Association, which has helped her."



Hannah Kiraly

track teams and shaved nearly four minutes off of her personal best time in the 5,000-meter run.

Between those responsibilities, the academic and athletic scholarship recipient also juggled part-time jobs and developed her photography talents — all while earning stellar grades and making the dean's list every semester.

Kiraly will graduate from Tri-C in May with an Associate of Arts degree. She intends to continue her studies and pursue a bachelor's degree in

sustainable agriculture from Chatham University in Pittsburgh.

As Ohio's New Century Scholar, Kiraly will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and represent the state during the American Association of Community Colleges annual convention in April.

The New Century Scholars Program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

# Faculty spotlight

## TODD ALLYN WILLIAMS

**T**odd Allyn Williams would be right at home in the intellectual salons of 18th century France. He loves to debate ideas, to challenge beliefs, both his and yours. Williams, an associate professor of business and economics at Cuyahoga Community College Westshore Campus, is a man of the mind, both in and out of the classroom.

In addition to being a full-time professor, the Akron native hosts a talk show called *The Todd Allyn Show* on WINT-AM. The self-funded, weekly program is on a temporary hiatus, but will return in time for the Republican National Convention in 2016.

“The gist of the show was to talk about different ideologies regardless of background. All we do is try to talk issues. There’s nothing personal,” he said.

Podcasts of previous shows are at the station’s website, and Williams has a Facebook page for the show. Guests may range from a local business owner to a white supremacist. Williams doesn’t court controversy, per se, but it sometimes finds him.

“The reason I use Todd Allyn is because, when I was going to get a whooping from my mother, she would call me by my first and middle name. So I figured that the show might be controversial enough that it should be called ‘Todd Allyn,’” Williams said. “I want to build my brand to attract students who want to come to Tri-C. It’s important as faculty that we do things in the community.”

He has fortified his brand by authoring *And the Cattle Upon the*

“As educators, it’s our responsibility to not bring in our personal ideology, but to expand the different theories and allow students to figure out for themselves what they want to follow.”



Todd Allyn Williams

*Thousand Hills: Money Management for God’s People* and will soon finish another book, *Money Boot Camp: Basic Training for Mastering the Art of Financial War*. He also runs a small business, Planet Wealthy, which helps people manage their relationships with their financial advisers or other financial consultants.

“I saw my grandparents struggle,” Williams said. “I saw their lifestyle change over time because they got poor advice from the financial-services industry, so I wanted to learn about it. Money is probably the most misunderstood thing in people’s lives, yet it’s up there in importance like air.”

Williams was dean of the college of business at Chancellor University and helped develop and implement the Jack Welch Management Institute, an online MBA program later sold to Strayer University. He has also worked for Global Fortune 500 companies.

But he has found a home at Tri-C. “Being educated allows you the opportunity for alternative discourse. It allows for intelligent conversation about different viewpoints,” he said. “As educators, it’s our responsibility to not bring in our personal ideology, but to expand the different theories and allow students to figure out for themselves what they want to follow.”



## TRI-C Celebrates Student Success AT SPRING COMMENCEMENT

College sees 14 percent increase in student petitions to graduate



Cuyahoga Community College held its 49th annual Spring Commencement on May 14 at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center in Cleveland.

A total of 3,155 students petitioned to graduate this spring, a 14 percent increase from 2014. Combined with Fall Commencement, that means nearly 4,700 students — a record number — have petitioned for associate degrees and certificates from Tri-C over the past academic year.

The rising numbers reflect the College's commitment to student success and meeting a national call to action to produce more graduates.

"The future of Northeast Ohio and the nation brightens as these Tri-C students cross the stage in recognition of their academic achievement," said Alex Johnson, president of Cuyahoga Community College. "Their success in the classroom will lead to success in our community."

The College was asked to confer 784 Associate of Arts degrees, 394 Associate of Applied Business degrees, 682 Associate of Applied Science degrees, 181 Associate of Science degrees, 13 Associate of Technical Study degrees and 1,101 certificates of completion.

Additionally, the College awarded honorary degrees to Carole A. Carr and Tommy LiPuma to acknowledge their contributions to the College and community.



Mrs. Norma Lerner, President, The Lerner Foundation with Lieutenant Colonel Ford C. Phillips, flanked by Sergeant Kevon Brown (far left) and Sergeant Christopher Foster (far right) from the 3/25th Marine Corps at the dedication of the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on April 23, 2015.

# ALFRED LERNER VETERANS SERVICES CENTER

## *Dedicated at Eastern Campus*

College estimates center will help 10,000 veterans each year

**C**uyahoga Community College and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation celebrated the dedication of the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on April 23, 2015. The dedication honored the legacy of Alfred Lerner — a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, industry leader and philanthropist. Serving as a Marine Corps officer and pilot from 1955-1957, he displayed his love of country and proud service by wearing his Marine Corps hat long after finishing his tour of duty. Mr. Lerner, who passed away

in 2002, attributed much of his personal success to lessons learned during his Marine Corps tour.

The Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center was made possible with the generous support of Mrs. Norma Lerner and The Lerner Foundation. An area on the second floor of the Eastern Campus Student Services Center was redesigned to provide an engaging environment for veterans and their families.

“To support veterans and honor the legacy of my husband, my family and I are pleased to partner with Cuyahoga Community College to establish the

Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center at Eastern Campus,” said Norma Lerner, president of The Lerner Foundation. “As a nation, we have a duty to be there for those who served once they come home. It is a privilege to assist in providing these much-needed programs.”

The Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center will offer a full array of support services to help veterans and their families reach their educational goals as veterans transition from soldiers to civilians and become contributors to the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio. “Embedded in Cuyahoga

# ALFRED LERNER

MAY 8, 1933 - OCTOBER 23, 2002

As a visionary business leader, generous philanthropist, and compassionate member of our community, Alfred Lerner is remembered for his courage, kindness, and devotion to military service. Alfred and Norma Lerner created The Lerner Foundation in 1993 to make a difference in the lives of others by supporting medical research and educational opportunities.

Attributing Alfred Lerner's accomplishments to his Marine Corps training and service, The Lerner Foundation is dedicated to enabling Veterans to acclimate back to productive civilian lives. With generous support from The Lerner Foundation, Cuyahoga Community College has established the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center at the Eastern Campus. The Lerner Foundation's investment in Northeast Ohio's Veterans honors Mr. Lerner's legacy by having a major impact on the lives of thousands of Veterans who will become skilled workers and contributors to the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio.

The Lerner Foundation is grounded on the premise that there is no greater cause than to help others through furthering and developing new research, while helping people get the best health care and education possible. This Center represents an enduring legacy that honors Alfred and Norma Lerner's dedication and commitment to supporting our Veterans as they transition from military to civilian life.

Cuyahoga Community College, the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation and the students we serve are all extremely grateful to The Lerner Foundation for its commitment and support, and for helping establish a legacy for the future  
— The Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center.

April 23, 2015



This special plaque is displayed in the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center recognizing the legacy of Mr. Alfred Lerner and the commitment of Mrs. Norma Lerner and The Lerner Foundation.

Community College's mission is a strong commitment to continually develop programs and strategic transition services for veterans," Tri-C President Alex Johnson said. "Mrs. Lerner's generous support will help veterans and their families build bright futures through the opportunity of educational excellence."

The Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center is located on the Eastern campus, 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills. For Veterans Services information, please visit [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans) or call 216-987-3193. Tri-C has been recognized by *GI Jobs Magazine* as a "military-friendly school" for six consecutive years.

The Lerner Veterans Services Center offers meeting space, computer labs & other amenities to assist veterans.



# Tri-C Foundation Scholarship HAS 'LIFE- CHANGING IMPACT'

**F**or many students, paying for college is a challenge. Scholarships can have a lasting impact and help students access, continue and complete their dreams of a college education.

With the help of generous donors including corporations, foundations, friends and alumni, the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation maintains scholarship funds for students, meeting various donor-specific criteria. Due to the generosity of Foundation and College partners, more than 2,070 Tri-C students benefited from \$1.5 million in scholarships last year.

The Tri-C Alumni Scholarship Fund was established with the generous support of Cuyahoga Community College graduates who believe that Tri-C students make a difference in our community and are committed to student success.

Alumni Scholarship recipient Aziza Khakimova first thought about attending Tri-C after hearing a lot about it from friends and colleagues who praised the College for its high-quality, affordable education. The wide variety of classes and programs that the College offered impressed her, too. Specifically for her major, nursing, she



Aziza Khakimova

had heard great things about Tri-C's renowned program, so she enrolled.

That decision proved to be the best for Khakimova. She is now on the path to completing her associate degree and, ultimately, a master's degree. The Tri-C Alumni Scholarship that she received has been instrumental to her plan. It has allowed her to get a head start on her academic and professional career because, without it, she said she would not have been able to attend a College with a remarkable and competitive nursing program while working to support herself and her family.

Although a rigorous class and lab schedule keeps Khakimova busy, she continues to work part time and also manages to volunteer at Red Cross blood drives, when time permits.

None of this would have been possible for Khakimova without scholarship support from generous Tri-C Foundation donors who are committed to ensuring student

success and recognize students' need for financial assistance to help them succeed in college.

"The Tri-C Alumni Scholarship has more than just monetary value," said Khakimova. "It had a life-changing impact on me and my future goals and plans. I would not have been able to achieve my goals without it, and I will truly remember the generosity of that gift for the rest of my life. Thank you to everyone who supports student scholarships."

For more information about the Alumni Scholarship and how you can help students like Khakimova realize their dreams, visit [www.tri-c.edu/foundation](http://www.tri-c.edu/foundation). Your gift supporting Foundation scholarships provides students with the opportunity to succeed and helps prepare them to join the workforce and contribute to the regional economy. Cuyahoga Community College is where futures begin. Thank you for your support.



## Bringing an Education FULL CIRCLE

### Tri-C nurtured alumna's love for learning

**C**uyahoga Community College alumna Karen Gilliam, Ph.D., Class of 1981, is a self-proclaimed lifelong learner. Her experience at the College had a lot to do with that.

“Tri-C holds a very special place in my heart,” Gilliam recalled recently, noting that her love for learning was nurtured during her time here as a student.

Initially, it was affordability that drew her to Tri-C. While working for a family-owned pharmacy, Gilliam enrolled in medical terminology courses. Before long, she decided that she wanted more — a degree. Dedicated to learning, she excelled in her coursework, becoming a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, which recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students.

After earning her Associate of Arts degree with honors, Gilliam served as Tri-C's alumni Commencement speaker in 1982. She continued her education at Notre Dame College, earning a bachelor's degree. Gilliam completed her Master of Business Administration degree at Baldwin Wallace University and her doctorate in Leadership and Change at Antioch University.

Gilliam, division chief of Human Capital Development at NASA Glenn Research Center, is responsible for the planning, development and delivery of a comprehensive program of training,

“I support Tri-C because I know the importance of giving back to help the next generation of students discover their untapped potential and realize their dreams.”

change management, organizational development, consulting support, coaching and mentoring services. She is also active in her community, having served for nine years as an elected councilwoman in Bedford Heights. She published her first book, *Finding Your Voice in A World That Needs It*, in 2011 and was selected by NASA to be profiled for African-American History Month earlier this year.

With a foundation firmly in the liberal arts, she believes that all of the courses she took at Tri-C helped prepare her for work and life. In particular, she said her Introduction to Humanities course was memorable. As a part of the work in that course, she interviewed her grandmother, trying to capture her biography. It was challenging because her grandmother



Karen Gilliam, Ph.D.

was stubborn about sharing family history. This experience helped lead her, years later, to focus her doctoral studies on the link between leadership and storytelling.

Her connection to the instructor in that same course, Carol Jones, eventually led Gilliam to serve as an adjunct instructor at Eastern Campus, bringing her educational experience full-circle, from student to teacher.

She remains an advocate for Cuyahoga Community College and appreciates the powerful impact that scholarships have on students' education.

“I support Tri-C because I know the importance of giving back to help the next generation of students discover their untapped potential and realize their dreams,” Gilliam said.

## Fresh Produce in Winter?

# TRI-C MAKES IT POSSIBLE

*Students learn hydroponic techniques for year-round agriculture*

**C**uyahoga Community College turned winter's coldest months into a time to harvest fresh produce.

The College added a hydroponics unit to plant production classes to show the potential for year-round agriculture in Northeast Ohio. Done in a greenhouse, hydroponics is a water-based growing process that uses no soil.

"We want our students to rethink what is possible," said Greg Malone, manager of the College's Plant Science and Landscape Technology program.

Hands-on classes left a portion of the Eastern Campus greenhouse filled with leafy heads of lettuce and dozens of tomato and pepper plants. The first harvest of winter took place while snow still frosted campus.



For each crop, students experimented with three hydroponic systems that utilized different materials and techniques. The equipment to setup the operation inside the campus greenhouse cost less than \$3,000.

Malone said the goal was to show how easily entrepreneurs can launch hydroponics-based farms that yield produce throughout the year and fit into the region's emerging farm-to-table movement.

Produce harvested at the campus greenhouse during the hydroponics project was used at Café 4250, the student-run restaurant at Eastern Campus.

## Tri-C Team Places in Top 10 at 'Olympics of Landscaping'

*Student Tyler Stefancin finishes sixth individually at collegiate competition*

A team of students from Cuyahoga Community College placed ninth at a national collegiate landscaping competition held March 12 - 15 at North Carolina State University.

PLANET Student Career Days attracted 65 of the top college horticulture and landscape programs in the country. Tri-C finished first among Ohio schools and second among the nation's community colleges.

The competition — dubbed the "Olympics of Landscaping" — challenges students in 28 events that require the expertise needed to work in the industry.

Tyler Stefancin led Tri-C by placing sixth out of more than 750 entrants. Stefancin, of Grafton, finished third in truck and trailer operations and fourth in landscape

maintenance operations among his five events.

Erik Zavarella, of Garfield Heights, finished second in plant problem diagnosis, the best individual finish for the College in a single event.

Other Tri-C students with Top 10 performances included:

- Robbie Combs in annual and perennial identification
- Robert Decesare in hardscape installation
- Linus Glady in arboricultural techniques
- Randy Heacox, in plant problem diagnosis and turf and weed identification
- Matthew Komara in hardscape installation
- Mike Leposa in small engine repair

- Jeff Mader in computer-aided landscape design and irrigation troubleshooting
- Aaron Mohr in arboricultural techniques
- Maceo Napier in irrigation troubleshooting
- Sarah Naska in interior plant identification
- Dawid Pietrzycki in truck and trailer operations

Student Career Days was organized by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). The competition is a leading recruitment event for the \$73 billion landscape industry, where there is high demand for skilled workers.

# Bettie J. Baker

1923 – 2015

**B**ettie J. Baker, who passed away April 6, 2015, was as much a part of Cuyahoga Community College's venerable history as any one person could be. An associate professor of political science and African studies, Baker came to Tri-C in 1964, the College's second year of operation, and taught until her retirement in 2001 — an impressive 37 years.

Traveling to the fledgling community college in Cleveland, Ohio, from a career that had taken root in New York City and Greenfield, Mass., Baker was convinced she had been offered a teaching position for very specific reasons: because she hailed from outside Cleveland, which she felt was important to Tri-C's first president, Charles Chapman; because she was a World War II veteran who served in North Africa, Europe and the Middle East and could teach first-hand about those locations; and because she had an impressive decade of teaching already in place and, in fact, had helped with the start-up of Greenfield Community College in Massachusetts.

Baker believed strongly in the mission of the College and was not shy about sharing her passion. She noted, "If you were to take Tri-C off the map, you would not only lose a great educational institution, you would also lose the community. Tri-C transforms lives — it not only prepares students for new jobs, but it helps to make them a better part of the community. Students become much more aware of their world, which creates great understanding and participation. An active life requires



a commitment, and Tri-C prepares students for that commitment and the rest of their lives."

In fact, Baker remembered her relationships with students most fondly, watching them expand their horizons about Cleveland's rich, multi-cultural community.

Baker continued her generous support of Tri-C's veterans programs through the Tri-C Foundation, helping the College expand its services at the Tri-C Veterans Education Connection Center, in partnership with AT&T, located at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. Baker's support allowed Tri-C to help expand the footprint to cold war veterans and provide for service upgrades at the VA center. She was dedicated to the idea that our

veterans not be forgotten and that they have access to higher education and enhanced support services.

As part of her commitment to the College and its students, Baker forged lifelong relationships with her Tri-C colleagues as both friend and mentor. As a professor and with administrative roles with the faculty union and Joint Faculty Senate, she touched countless lives. The College held a celebration of life for Bettie Baker on May 7.

## College's Longest-Serving Trustee

# LOOKS FORWARD TO A HEALTHY FUTURE

**C**uyahoga Community College's longest-serving trustee, Nadine Feighan, completed her fifth and final term on Tri-C's board of trustees in January, following 25 years of dedicated service. During her tenure, she served as both chairperson and vice chairperson of the board, and she has chaired and served on each of its standing committees. Her unwavering leadership throughout the years has played an essential role in maintaining community trust in the institution.

As a board member, Feighan served as a liaison to the Ohio Board of Regents in addition to various national educational associations. She has been closely involved with Achieving the Dream and was instrumental in the passage of several property tax levies for the College. The board honored her dedication to educational excellence and student success by naming her trustee emeritus in March.

Feighan has been with the College through three presidents, having played a part in the selection process for two of them. Her most memorable experiences as a trustee have been those that involve spending time



with students and celebrating their achievements, particularly graduation. "I got to see the completion of all the hard work, self-sacrifice and self-development of the graduating students and, by extension, their families," she said. "It made all my work at Tri-C worthwhile."

A lifelong Cleveland resident, Feighan received a master's degree in social administration from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in 1979. Her commitment to the community and interest in human rights inspired her to donate her time and talent to local initiatives such as Cleveland Saves and the Committee

for Public Art along with higher-profile organizations including the National Association of Social Workers and International Partners in Mission.

Feighan lives in Lakewood and practices energy medicine at Simple Path, a holistic health care practice she founded in 2004. She hopes to bring meditation and holistic health to the College as part of the wellness program and eventually as a career path for therapists. "I'm very excited about the benefits that these programs will bring to the College community," she said.

# Meet Me @ Tri-C:

## Michael Poole

**M**ichael Poole is in his second year as a student at Cuyahoga Community College. He plays infield and pitcher for the College's baseball team. The Kent resident attended Field High School and is studying education.

**TRI-C TIMES:** As an athlete, why did you choose Cuyahoga Community College?

**MICHAEL POOLE:** As an athlete, I chose Tri-C because junior colleges give you a great chance to develop as a student and an athlete, and that is exactly what it has done for me. Also, the facilities for baseball cannot get much better than what we have here at Tri-C.

**TCT:** What is your best memory so far as a member of the Tri-C baseball team?

**MP:** My best memory so far would just be my whole second year all together. Getting new coaches, adding new players from last year's team. All the big jumps we made from last year have made this a great year. The conditioning and hard work we all put in as a team helps us come together and has made us grow a great bond.

**TCT:** Do you consider yourself primarily an athlete, primarily a student or an even blend of both? Explain.

**MP:** I consider myself to be an even blend of an athlete and a student. I have always been around sports, played them, and know the game of baseball very well. But I also take my classes seriously and know that grades come first.

**TCT:** What do you do when you are not practicing or studying?

**MP:** When I am not practicing or studying, I am either with family or



the teammates. I have four younger siblings that I like to support on what activities they do, and being so close with all the team, we always try and do fun things while not studying or on the field.

**TCT:** What are your priorities for the summer of 2015?

**MP:** For summer, I plan on playing more baseball and bettering myself, hanging out with family and friends and going to a lot of Tribe games.

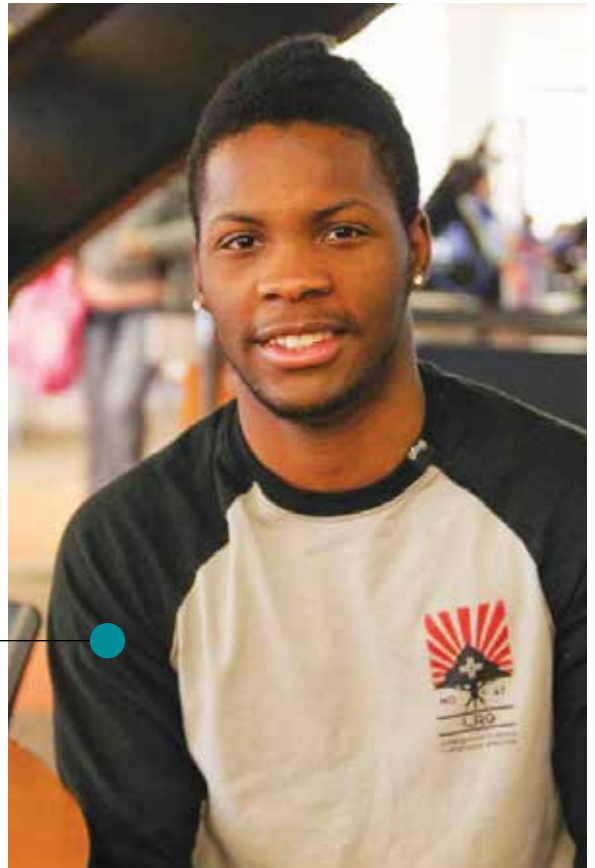
*To keep up with Tri-C students and graduates, check out Meet Me @ Tri-C, a periodic feature on the Tri-C Trending blog at [tri-c.edu/trictrending](http://tri-c.edu/trictrending).*

# #mytricstory

## What does art mean to you?

“I see it like this. Art is like a thumbprint. It’s your own distinct style. Whatever it is, people can try to do it, but it won’t be exactly the same.”

— Clarence, Graphic Design, Western Campus  
#MyTriCStory



## What would be your ideal career?

“I have a passion for helping people with their problems. I want to be a counselor for people who are in crisis or suffering. That would definitely be my ideal job because I’d be so happy to go to that every day.”

— Patricia, Human Services,  
Brunswick University Center #myTriCStory

To see more examples of #mytricstory, like Tri-C on Facebook: @facebook.com/tric.edu.

MORE THAN

1,000

LOCAL COMPANIES HIRED TRI-C® STUDENTS OR CONTRACTED WITH TRI-C TO TRAIN THEIR WORKERS

41,000



TRI-C STUDENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY

**TRANSFERRED**  
to 4-year universities  
in the past five years

85%

OF TRI-C GRADS



LIVE & WORK IN

NORTHEAST  
**OHIO**

NEARLY



**60,000**  
**STUDENTS**  
**ATTEND TRI-C**  
**EACH YEAR**

Cuyahoga  
Community  
College



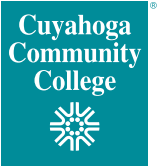
Where futures begin™

## What Are You Waiting For?

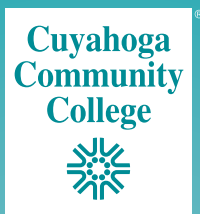
The right college education can boost your lifetime earning power by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**tri-c.edu**  
**216-987-6000**

144477



700 Carnegie Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115



# Enroll now!

Lowest college tuition in Northeast Ohio

Easily transfer your credits to a four-year university

Multiple convenient locations

Courses in health care, business, IT, manufacturing, culinary arts, creative arts  
...and everything in between

[www.tri-c.edu/programs](http://www.tri-c.edu/programs)  
216-987-6000