

Tri-C[®] TIMES



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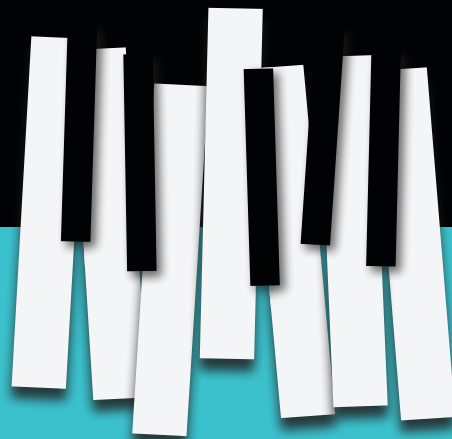
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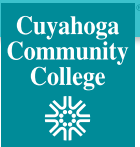
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Message from
the President

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) gives students the knowledge and confidence they need to serve the communities of Northeast Ohio in a multitude of ways.

Tri-C alumni are everywhere — from the local television news stations to the College's own emergency dispatch center. They work alongside attorneys as paralegals. They apply the hands-on training they received as automotive technicians. And many provide care and comfort as nurses at the region's top hospitals.

Our cover story details how Tri-C's nursing program has partnered with health care providers and four-year schools to address the critical need for nurses in Northeast Ohio. Though an associate degree opens doors to many careers, more and more employers are looking to hire nurses with bachelor's degrees. For this reason, Tri-C is committed to aiding its nursing students in their matriculation to four-year degree programs at area colleges and universities and, ultimately, finding gainful employment.

Other College programs are making news as well. The paralegal program recently underwent extensive modernization to give students an advantage in the increasingly technological field of law. Meanwhile, Plant Science and Landscaping Technology students are showing tremendous promise on the national stage.

Tri-C also provides unique opportunities for learning and cultural enrichment that extend beyond the classroom.

This issue includes a preview of the 38th annual Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, presented by KeyBank. New features and an exciting lineup comprised of jazz icons and newer artists alike will make this summer's event one to remember.

And the community-wide Stokes initiative is in full swing, with a broad range of programming scheduled throughout 2017. Visit www.stokes50cle.com to view the events calendar and learn more about the yearlong commemoration.

It's an exciting time to live and work in Northeast Ohio. Read on to discover more about how Tri-C strives to create a prosperous future for students, their families and the community.

Sincerely,

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

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
President



Tri-C nursing students perform lab work during a class at the Westshore Campus.

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

SPRING 2017

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4250 Richmond Road
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for Creative Arts
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- 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: PROVIDING CRITICAL ASSISTANCE

Each year, the nursing field struggles more and more to keep up with the demands of an aging population. Tri-C's nursing program is working to address the critical nursing shortage throughout the region.

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ANSWERING THE CALL



KeyBank Public Safety Scholarship helps Aurielle Goins follow her dream

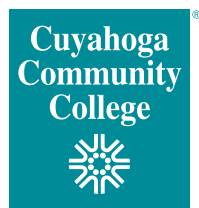
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SWING SET



Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland adds new features for 2017

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Tri-C Wins Bellwether Award for Workforce Development

National honor recognizes the College's job-training program

Cuyahoga Community College won its first national Bellwether Award for the workforce development programs in place at its Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence.

The honor recognizes College job-training initiatives designed to produce graduates in high-demand fields. The programs provide the skilled workforce needed to build the regional economy.

"Our goal at Tri-C is to be more than a training provider for industry," said William Gary, executive vice president of the College's Workforce, Community and Economic Development division. "We want to be a catalyst for solutions to benefit all of Northeast Ohio."

The Community College Futures Assembly, which sponsors the Bellwether Awards, announced this year's winners at its annual meeting in January.

The award highlights trendsetting programs that other colleges might find worthy of replicating. Tri-C is one of only three community colleges in Ohio named a Bellwether winner since the award debuted in 1995.

Tri-C was one of 10 Bellwether Award finalists in this year's Workforce Development category. Awards also were given in the categories of Instructional Programs & Services and Planning, Governance & Finance.

The Community College Futures Assembly meets annually as an independent policy think-tank to identify the critical issues faced by colleges and diverse solutions established by leading institutions.

Tri-C Track Athletes Earn All-American Honors

Runner Amber Ruiz-Bueno and shot putter Rashida Harris shine on national stage

Tri-C runner Amber Ruiz-Bueno and shot putter Rashida Harris registered All-American performances at the 2017 NJCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships held in March in Kansas.

Ruiz-Bueno finished fourth in the 1,000-meter run and sixth in the 600-meter run, becoming the first Tri-C track athlete to earn All-American honors in two individual events while competing at a national championship meet.

Harris, meanwhile, placed third in the shot put to earn All-American honors for the second consecutive year in the event.

"Amber and Rashida turned in amazing performances on the national stage," said Don Cox, the College's longtime track coach. "They are two of the best that we've had come through the track program."

Ruiz-Bueno set a Tri-C record while clocking a 1:32.22 competing in the 600-meter run at the championships, lowering her previous mark. She ran a 2:59.12 to finish fourth in the 1,000-meter finals.

The sophomore from Willowick also ran a leg of Tri-C's distance medley relay, which finished seventh while setting a school record. She was joined by Naleta Andrews (freshman/Shaker Heights), Sonnie Sauvinsky (freshman/Rootstown) and Caroline Lapish (freshman/Madison).

Harris placed third in the shot put with a throw of 48 feet, 11.75 inches. The championships capped a season where she extended her own school record in the event. She placed fifth at the indoor championships last year.

The sophomore from Euclid also finished 18th at nationals in the 20-pound weight throw with a heave of 47 feet, 2.5 inches. She set the school record in the event earlier in the indoor track season.

As a team, Tri-C finished 15th at the national championships.



Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

1967-2017

Celebrate Carl and Louis Stokes' lasting contributions to Cleveland and the nation and inspire a new generation to continue their legacy.

Join a yearlong, community-wide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Carl Stokes' election as mayor of Cleveland. Mayor Stokes and his brother, Congressman Louis Stokes, played key roles in the advancement of the city and the nation through the civil rights movement and beyond.

Visit www.stokes50cle.com/events to learn how to participate in the initiative. #stokesc50cle



PROVIDING **CRITICAL** *assistance*

Each year, the nursing field struggles more and more to keep up with the demands of an aging population. Here's how Tri-C's nursing program is working to address the critical nursing shortage throughout the region.

The United States is getting older. According to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of the American population over the age of 65 jumped from 13 to 15 percent in the five years between 2010 and 2015. It's because the average U.S. life expectancy has climbed more or less steadily over the past 45 years, to the point that Americans can now expect to live to an average age of 78.

That is an incredibly positive development in one sense — it speaks to a standard of living that is among the highest in the developed world. But the relentless uptick in the average age of the U.S. population has created a whole new set of challenges, and many of them have been placed directly at the feet of the nursing profession.

In recent years, the health care industry has been fighting an exhausting uphill battle. With advancing age comes inevitable health concerns — diseases and conditions that need monitoring and treatment. More people are living longer and longer with those diseases and conditions, requiring exponentially more medical care. It's care usually delivered by nurses.

On top of that, the nursing field itself is aging, with the highest percentage of practicing nurses in Ohio

between the ages of 56 and 60. As those nurses reach retirement age, there are fewer young nurses entering the field to replace them.

The math adds up to a shortfall of 3,500 nurses by 2020, in Northeast Ohio alone.

This is an equation the nursing field can't solve without an active and involved partnership between health care systems and educational institutions. That's why Cuyahoga Community College is partnering with Northeast Ohio's four-year nursing programs and biggest health care providers to begin working toward solutions for a growing crisis.

ENTERING THE FIELD

Though there are still ample employment opportunities for associate degree nursing graduates, there is an increasing demand across the health care industry for nurses with four-year degrees.

“Employers see a high level of value in nursing graduates who are prepared for a broader scope of practice, who possess a higher level of critical thinking skills and have a better understanding of the cultural, political, economic and social issues that affect patients,” said Vivian Yates, Tri-C's dean of nursing. “Nurses have to think on their feet a lot; they have to be able to make quick and correct decisions

TRI-C RANKS
6th
IN OHIO,
AMONG ALL
COLLEGES IN
THE NATION,
and
No. 1
IN AWARDING
ASSOCIATE
DEGREES IN
NURSING.

Source:
Community College Week
(Statistics published
September 2016)



Students Ashley Augustus and Mohammad Abuzahrieh utilize a lab dummy during a class exercise at the Westshore Campus.





Francesca Tranter checks the pulse of fellow student Alyssa Bishop.



Instructor Samantha Mencini lectures during a nursing class.

on patient assessment and when to involve the primary healthcare provider. They have to be able to analyze and interpret data.”

As the dean of a two-year nursing program, Yates has been challenged to find ways to not only graduate associate-degree nurses, but also aid in the matriculation of students to four-year programs.

In much the same way students in other areas of study turn to Tri-C as a lower-cost way of earning college credits prior to transfer, Yates and her staff are positioning their program to serve as an integral step on the ladder to a four-year degree and postgraduate employment.

“When we go to high schools for career days, we tell prospective students about the two-year program, because a two-year nursing degree is still a viable way to get into the field,” Yates said. “But along with that, we now talk about the need for four-year nursing degrees and the ways that Tri-C can help facilitate that.”

But even with active recruiting efforts aimed at prospective students interested in both two-year and four-year degrees, there still aren’t enough new nurses entering the field to meet demand.

“One major cause of the nursing shortage is the opportunity for women to pursue careers that were once only open to men,” Yates said. “Women have so many other career options available to them, which is great, but this is still a field that is predominantly female, even though we have seen increases in men entering nursing in recent years.”

In Ohio, about 92 percent of nurses are women.

Minorities are another underrepresented demographic in nursing. Statewide, 89 percent of nurses are white, with African Americans comprising

the next-largest group at 5.4 percent. All other racial and ethnic groups are at 1 percent or less.

“Minorities are another area of recruiting focus for us,” Yates said. “We do a lot of recruiting at urban-area high schools. We recognize that there is a need for nurses who bring diversity representative of the population they’re serving.”

PLAN OF ACTION

Getting nursing students into the classroom is one thing. Providing them the tools, resources and pathways necessary to turn their college journey into a successful career is another. It’s why Tri-C has invested heavily in technologically advanced nursing labs. It’s also why Tri-C is developing and strengthening partnerships with health care systems and four-year nursing programs throughout the region.

The partnerships include the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, both of which play an important role in training and employing nurses from Tri-C.

Tri-C and the Cleveland Clinic maintain an ongoing dialogue about the changes that continue to impact the nursing field, and how both organizations can address them.

“Tri-C is part of a collaborative effort called the Dean’s Roundtable, which started back in 2005,” said Lisa Bryant, senior director of nursing education and professional development at the Cleveland Clinic. “We bring together all of our academic partners, working together to identify the challenges facing

nursing schools and how we are preparing nurses to take on the extremely important task of caring for an aging population.”

It's a conversation between two of the essential cogs in the regional nursing machine. More than 6,000 nursing students each year participate in clinical training at the Cleveland Clinic, from Tri-C and many other schools throughout the area. The Clinic has hired about 900 Tri-C nursing graduates in the past four years.

Tri-C is also exploring ways to collaborate with University Hospitals, another health care giant in the region. UH also employs many graduates of Tri-C's nursing program and other programs throughout the area. But UH, Tri-C and Cleveland State University are working together on a program that could take the collaboration to a new level — one that could help students on their educational journey to graduation and onward to employment in the field.

Called the UH Scholars Program, it will offer tuition support and career coaching for nursing students enrolled in the program.

“The idea is to offer tuition support for Tri-C students who are moving on to the BSN program at CSU,” said Kim Shelnick, UH's vice president of human resources. “We're planning to offer \$6,000 in loan forgiveness while a student is at Tri-C, and another \$6,000 if they move on to CSU.”

UH also plans to provide mentorship services to UH Scholars Program students at both schools.

“The goal is to increase the number of students who graduate and successfully pass the nursing board exams,” said Jean Blake, UH's chief nursing officer. “We want to create a strong mentoring relationship with both schools. Our established nurses have a great deal of experience, and we're really excited to give them the opportunity to become instructors and mentors, and pass their knowledge along to the next generation.”

There are no quick answers to solving the nursing shortage. Demand will continue to increase along with the age of the population. However, Tri-C, along with other nursing programs and with the area's health care systems, is charting a course that could help recruit new talent to a demanding but exciting field and give that talent the tools to succeed.

“There are so many opportunities in the nursing field,” Yates said. “If you are willing to learn, willing to work and passionate about helping people, you'll find a place in this field. As a nursing program, it's our job to start you down that path.”



THE **CASE** *for nursing*

The national nursing shortage is creating major challenges for the health care industry, but it is also turning nursing into one of the fastest-growing and most lucrative fields in which to pursue a degree.

According to the 2016-17 Occupational Outlook Handbook, published by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the nursing field is projected to see a 16 percent increase in jobs between the years 2014 and 2024. The average national employment increase by field is 7 percent.

As of 2014, there were 2.75 million nursing positions in the U.S., meaning the ensuing 10 years could bring about the creation of nearly 440,000 new nursing jobs nationwide.

In addition, nursing is one of the highest-paying fields with such a pronounced demand for new practitioners. The 2015 median wage for nurses was \$67,490 annually, or \$32.45 per hour — nearly double the 2015 national median annual wage across all fields.

Nurses are employed in a wide range of facilities, including hospitals, doctors' offices, long-term care facilities, home health care services and many others. Though nurses can develop areas of specialization, it's not necessary to specialize in order to work in a given setting.

General nursing skills are often universally applied throughout the medical field, including patient assessment, recordkeeping, operation and monitoring of medical equipment and administering tests, medication and other forms of treatment.

“Nurses generally don't develop areas of specialization until you start getting into the master's degree level of education,” said Tri-C Dean of Nursing Vivian Yates. “But that doesn't mean nurses aren't allowed to work in specialized settings. You can still put your nursing degree to work delivering health care services in a pediatric or psychiatric setting, among lots of others. It's a career with many different doors available to open.”

FORWARD MOTION



Instructor Joe Fell addresses a Torts and Evidence class at Tri-C's Western Campus.

Paralegal studies program undergoes transformation, retains student focus

Candice Storey always knew she wanted to apply her knowledge and skills in an unconventional way. When the former attorney joined Tri-C as manager of the Paralegal Studies program in 2015, she found the opportunity she'd been looking for.

"My favorite part of practicing law was the counseling aspect — the one-on-one time I spent with my clients," she said. "Now, my students are my clients."

A first-generation college student herself, Storey recognizes that it takes a special kind of drive to succeed in higher education without an example to follow.

"The students here are super hardworking," she said. "It's my job to help them discover how to apply their individual interests and talents to the paralegal profession."

Paralegals work under attorney supervision to perform duties such as drafting legal documents, pursuing factual investigations and preparing witnesses for deposition. They work in law firms, insurance companies, government agencies and other organizations.

Storey spends a good portion of her time building relationships in the legal community to keep on top

of trends and develop new opportunities for her students to learn and grow. In fact, the Paralegal Studies curriculum recently underwent extensive modernization based on feedback from local employers.

Today's attorneys rely on paralegals to master new technologies, including systems for presenting evidence, filing court records and documents and performing legal research.

"Technology is such a critical part of the job — you've got to be a quick learner," Storey said.

Thanks to newly negotiated site licenses, students now have unlimited access to leading legal research database Lexis. Faculty member Joe Fell cites the importance of this change in helping students become proficient in the system.

"Students get more practice using the system because it carries through from beginning to end — they can use it to complete assignments in nearly every course," he said.

The Paralegal Studies program offers an associate degree option as well as a post-degree certificate. Students can start any term and complete at their own pace. There is no cap on enrollment, which means there is never a wait list.

But that doesn't mean the program is for everyone. Due to its challenging nature, students must receive an A or B in the intro course and complete a separate application process for acceptance.

"We want to ensure that those who invest their time and money will be able to excel in class, gain employment and thrive in the paralegal profession," Storey said.

Students receive a general legal education, with courses in civil procedure, basic legal writing and computer-assisted research. Professors often invite guest speakers to their classes to supplement lessons and concepts, including high-profile local attorneys such as Jaye Schlachet, who visited a criminal law class last year. Schlachet served as defense counsel in the 2013 Ariel Castro trial.

Students can choose from electives in specialty areas such as criminal, juvenile, family and elder law. Their final semester of study consists of a 150-hour practicum experience in addition to a capstone course in which students create a portfolio they can use in their job search.

"I like to think of it as a job preparation course," Fell said. "We make sure the students are well-positioned for what they want to do next."

Thanks to the relatively small size of the program, Paralegal Studies students enjoy a high level of personal attention and support, even after graduation. Faculty are dedicated to providing help and resources to students and graduates alike.

"Just because you receive your degree or certificate, it's not like, 'OK, we're done! Good luck!'" Storey said. "The door remains open for their lifetime."

Staff offer help with resume writing, portfolios and more, and paralegal grads have access to job postings sent directly to Storey from local employers — many of whom are specifically looking to hire Tri-C students.

Articulation agreements with Ursuline College and Cleveland State University allow graduates to apply their credits toward bachelor's degrees in legal studies, urban studies or public safety management.

Because it draws upon a variety of skills, abilities and experiences, the paralegal profession is ideal for those looking to start a new career later in life.

"If you've been a bank teller for many years, you can merge your interests and abilities by going to work as a paralegal for a financial institution," Storey said. "We've even had police officers go through the program."

"Career-changers are great to have in the classroom because their unique perspectives enhance everyone's learning experience," Fell added. "They bring a wealth of life and job experience that just adds so much to the discussion."



Students researching in the Paralegal Library.

Jodi Baron is one such student. Burned out by the amount of traveling required by her sales job, she chose Paralegal Studies.

"I was drawn to Tri-C's program because it's approved by the American Bar Association," she said. "Not many are — that says a lot about the quality."

Baron is completing an internship in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio as part of her practicum. "By the time I graduate, I'll have accumulated five months of valuable experience," Baron said. "Having this internship on my resume will make a huge difference in my ability to find a job."

Baron is president of the Paralegal Professionals Organization (PPO), a newly chartered student group at the Western Campus. PPO's first meeting in January 2017 drew 25 students and alumni.

Though the group is still in its infancy, Fell, who serves as faculty advisor, is optimistic. "Members have been proactive in engaging their fellow students," he said. "As the group grows and matures, we'll see some great things happening."

Paralegal Studies recently joined Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Private Security, Environmental Health and Safety Technology and Captioning and Court Reporting as part of Tri-C's Public Safety Center of Excellence.

"Inclusion in the Public Safety Center of Excellence allows us to pool resources to create new opportunities for our students," Storey said. "We're excited to take advantage of the benefits this designation brings."

As the program moves into its 26th year, Storey and her team have a lot to be proud of — and their students remain at the top of that list.

"Every day I come to work and feel so lucky to have students who are so motivated to learn," Storey said. "I am honored to be even a tiny part of their experience at Tri-C."

For more information on Tri-C's Paralegal Studies program, visit www.tri-c.edu/programs/paralegal.



Answering **THE CALL**

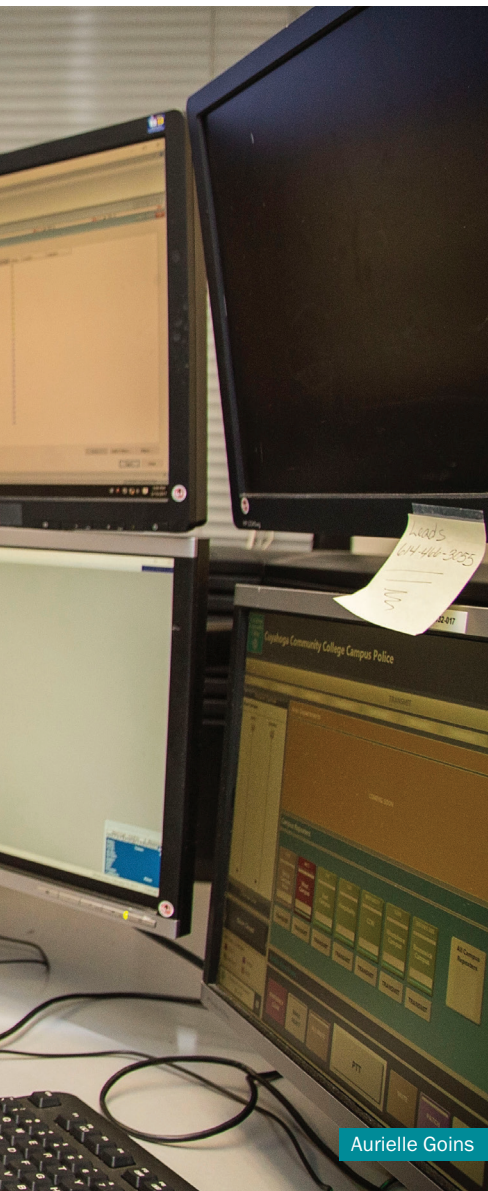
KeyBank Public Safety
Scholarship helps
Aurielle Goins follow
her dream

People needing help naturally turned to Aurielle Goins during her school years in East Cleveland. “If anyone had a problem,” she said, “they knew I could talk them through their situation.”

Today, the 18-year-old is doing that professionally as a police dispatcher thanks to Cuyahoga Community College and opportunities offered through a KeyBank Foundation grant.

Goins currently works part time as a dispatcher for Tri-C’s Campus Police and Security Services. She fielded her first call in January after earning two professional dispatching certifications through a training program at the College. (see story page 13)

In addition, Goins enrolled at Tri-C to pursue an associate degree in Criminal Justice. She would eventually like to become a criminal psychologist.



Aurielle Goins

"I'm on my career path," Goins said, "and Tri-C helped put me there."

A KeyBank Foundation grant awarded to the College last year helped guide Goins into the field. The grant supports training for students pursuing careers as law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and other public safety occupations.

The initiative includes a campaign to recruit minority and female candidates for first responder jobs, as well as the creation of a youth-focused summer academy that Goins attended in June.

The two-week academy built on criminal justice classes Goins took her junior and senior years at Shaw High School through the Career and Technical Education Program.

"It brought everything together," she said. "The academy gave me an in-depth look at the different careers in public safety. That's when I learned I really liked dispatching. That's why I'm in this job today."

Goins paused for a second and smiled: "Well...that and Melva."

"Melva" would be Tri-C's Melva Henderson, who oversaw the program in its first year. Henderson serves as a trainer and compliance coordinator for Campus Police and has been with the department since 1999.

Henderson said she saw something special in Goins, who attended the academy after clocking out from a night security job she landed after graduating from Shaw.

"Aurielle excelled in everything and seemed determined to learn," Henderson said. "You could see how serious she was about going into public safety as a career. Students like that stick in your head."

So when Tri-C looked to fill an open dispatcher position in the fall, Henderson contacted Goins and encouraged her to apply. The College hired her in November.

After being hired, Goins attended the new dispatcher training program launched by Tri-C's Public Safety Center of Excellence at Western Campus in Parma.

"I know I can make a difference as a dispatcher," Goins said. "I'm the 'first' first responder when people need help. It's a lot of responsibility, but I'm ready for it."

The KeyBank Public Safety Scholarship Goins received has helped her to advance her education as she works toward her associate degree.

"Tri-C put its faith in me and gave me the confidence I needed," Goins said. "People here saw my potential before I knew what it was. The College has given me an incredible opportunity, and I'm going to make the most of it."

WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?

College develops 911 dispatcher training program to meet regional needs

A new program developed by Tri-C's Public Safety Center of Excellence will address a shortage of dispatchers needed to staff regional emergency call centers.

The five-week training program mixes classroom and hands-on instruction to prepare dispatchers to handle police, fire and emergency medical calls. The College recently graduated its second class from the program.

The College developed the course in response to a request from the city of Strongsville, which saw the training need after forming the Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center with Berea, Olmsted Falls and North Royalton.

The technology in place at the regional 911 call center demands dispatchers with advanced skills, Strongsville Mayor Tom Perciak said. Three dispatchers from the city enrolled in the program's first class.

"We need individuals who understand how to use these sophisticated systems and multitask in times of high call volume," Perciak said. "Their abilities may mean the difference between life and death."

The class takes place at the KeyBank Public Safety Training Center at Tri-C's Western Campus. There is discussion at the College about creating an associate degree program for dispatchers.

on the
CUTTING
edge



Landscaping team members (left to right) Aaron Mohr, Tyler Stefancin and Linus Gladly take a quick break during the landscape installation event at last year's National Collegiate Landscape Competition, held at Mississippi State University. The trio placed third in the nation.

Tri-C's landscaping team is a national title contender you probably don't know about ... but should

There is a team that perennially contends for national championships at Cuyahoga Community College, but you probably can't find it without a campus map.

Search every gymnasium court and swimming pool — you won't find it there. It's not a sports team. Search the computer labs and lecture halls — not there either.

To find Tri-C's aspiring dynasty, you have to locate the breezeway between the Eastern Campus' Education Center and its annex. Descend the concrete stairs and enter the lowest level of the annex, turn several corners and arrive at a room with large tables, plants and growing lights.

It looks like a horticultural classroom. You can see a greenhouse through the

windows. No, you didn't take a wrong turn — this is definitely a place where elite competitors hone their skills.

This is the training center for the Tri-C landscaping team. Part of the Plant Science and Landscape Technology program, the landscaping team is comprised of the most talented future landscaping technicians and plant science professionals that Tri-C will produce. Every year, they train under the eye of program manager Jim Funai for the National Collegiate Landscape Competition — where they have finished in the top 10 every year since 2014.

That alone would be special, but then you see the caliber of the competition, and realize what Tri-C's landscaping team has accomplished is downright incredible.

Tri-C's Top 10 FINISHES AT THE NCLC

2014
5th

2015
10th

2016
3rd

2017
5th



Tri-C's Forrest Dorsey (center) and Robert DeCesare (right) during the hardscape event at last year's National Collegiate Landscape Competition, held at Mississippi State University. The pair placed second in the nation.

SMALL SCHOOL, BIG RESULTS

Michigan State. Penn State. Brigham Young.

It's not Ohio State's upcoming football schedule. It's a list of the schools that Tri-C's landscaping team competes against every single year.

"We get looks from the four-year schools, like, 'Why are you here?'" Funai said. "We're here because we're really good. Over the past three years, we've finished fifth, ninth and third in the nation as a team, and we routinely place students in the top 15 individually, out of a field that usually numbers about 800 competitors."

Large four-year schools build their programs with a wealth of resources at their disposal. It means their teams are larger, allowing students to specialize in a single event. Tri-C's team doesn't have the same advantage, which means team members have to be more versatile, mastering four or five events in a competition that comprises nearly 30 events every year.

It's even more difficult than it sounds — the events cover a wide range of specialties, all meant to test the entrants in skills they will need when employed in the industry after graduation. Events range from 3-D exterior landscape design to turf and weed identification, small engine repair to irrigation design and assembly.

"It's an extremely varied competition," said second-year team

TRI-C TEAM PLACES FIFTH AT 2017 NCLC

Just before this issue went to print, the Tri-C landscaping team returned from the 2017 National Collegiate Landscape Competition with yet another top-10 finish. Tri-C's team placed fifth in this year's competition in Provo, Utah, led by Anthony Angelici, who finished sixth in the individual rankings, out of a field of nearly 700 students.

Ross Clark (18th) and Aaron Mohr (22nd) were among the other top individual finishers for Tri-C.

This marks the fourth consecutive year Tri-C's landscaping team has placed in the top 10 at the NCLC, with three top-five finishes over that span.

member Anthony Angelici. "In the landscaping competition, you get a 10-by-10 plot of land to plant grass and plants, and you get graded on your plans and execution. It's very detailed."

"You have to be versatile to compete with bigger schools," said third-year team member Aaron Mohr. "It really does run the whole gamut of everything you'll need to know on the job. Equipment operation, construction, business skills — this field isn't just about planting trees and cutting grass."

LEADING THE WAY

When you ask Angelici and Mohr why the program has been successful, they point to one person. For them, all the kudos go to Funai.

"He does so much for us," Mohr said. "He works so hard prepping us for the competition every year. And he has so many connections in the industry — we get to meet a lot of people and build up our network of contacts."

Funai came to the plant science program eight years ago. Unlike previous program managers, Funai is an industry man, bringing a practical, real-world perspective to training and coursework.

"We used to have academic people running the program," Funai said. "Now, myself and (program manager) Greg Malone are from the industry. We've been able to blend the art and science aspects of landscaping with practicality, and we've gotten very good results." But Funai, Mohr, Angelici and the whole Tri-C landscaping team (18 students in total) are training for even better results in the 2017 NCLC. The team traveled to Utah, where Brigham Young hosted this year's event March 15-18.

"We had a great time last year and we're really looking forward to returning," Angelici said prior to this year's competition. "We've been training even harder and studying even more and we can't wait to get out there."

TODAY'S NEWS:

IT'S A COMPLICATED STORY

Tri-C's Journalism and Mass Communications Program Adapts to Challenging Times

When Sara Liptak landed a news internship at WKYC in fall 2016, one of the first things she did was buy an iPhone. It was not a gift to herself. Liptak knew that, these days, the iPhone is a critical tool of the trade, one that defines journalism in the digital age.

"[Social media] is at the forefront of our jobs," she said.

The days when a reporter's primary responsibility was writing news copy for a newspaper are long gone. Because of the smartphone and, more broadly, the internet, people expect their news to be immediate, constant, easily digestible and — hey, if you don't mind — include video or photos.

The Journalism and Mass Communications program at Cuyahoga Community College is adapting to this new and challenging landscape, keeping journalistic ethics as part of the core curriculum while adding a social media and blogging course to its program sequence. In addition, the program includes a public relations course and a "hyperlocal" focus for students interested in working as correspondents.

"Journalism is still necessary," said John Kerezy, associate professor of Journalism and Mass Communications at Tri-C. "What has changed is the attention span of the viewer and pressure on the journalist to produce something quickly."

Kerezy said the College's journalism program provided pipelines to internships, and transfer partnerships are in place with more than 35 four-year institutions. Many students go on to earn bachelor's



Sara Liptak



Professor John Kerezy said there will always be a need for good journalism.

degrees and find work in public relations, social media, marketing and, like Liptak, television.

“The media does not just throw garbage out there,” Liptak, 25, said. “The goal is to be ethical, to be unbiased and then to be respected. A lot of people think the media is out to get you. Some people may be. The majority of people working in news just want to get the facts out there and get the story told.”

Liptak earned her associate degree in Journalism and Mass Communications at Tri-C in 2013 and finished her bachelor’s at Cleveland State University. Today, she works as a discovery desk assignment editor for WKYC.

The job title might sound unfamiliar, but to hear Liptak tell it, her work sounds a lot like the journalism of old; she describes a newsroom where reporters monitor police and fire scanners. But, “you also have to be a social media watchdog,” she said. Social

“The majority of people working in news just want to get the facts out there and get the story told.”

– Sara Liptak

media allows her to keep tabs on other news outlets and often can be a source of news itself. The internet also is the platform that matters for breaking news.

At the same time, news outlets are struggling to create online revenue streams that replicate what they once enjoyed through traditional advertising. Without that money, paying for the staff necessary to research and report substantive news is difficult.

“For young people, paying for news is a foreign concept,” Kerezy said, but he

and others in the field believe figuring out how to make the media work in this environment is not just worth it, but obligatory. An informed public is critical to a functioning democracy.

“People are better informed about trivial matters and less informed about significant matters . . . We (citizens) are not as focused, and we are not as deeply engaged in affairs as we should be,” he said.

Liptak agreed. “Now is a very crucial time to learn the facts.”



Dance Theatre of Harlem member Alicia Holloway leads an exercise drawing connections between ballet and athletics.

ATHLETES FIND DANCERS ON POINT

Dance Theatre of Harlem shows track and field team the benefits of ballet



DTH member Jordan Kindell talks to members of the Tri-C track and field team.

On Jan. 19, members of the prestigious Dance Theatre of Harlem met with members of the Cuyahoga Community College women's track and field team to show how the fine art of ballet can enhance the brute force of athletic competition.

The troupe was in town to perform at Playhouse Square as part of the Tri-C Presents Performing Arts Series. They scheduled two performances, co-presented with DANCECleveland, and both sold out. As part of the program, the dancers performed a piece by choreographer, Cleveland native and Doris Duke Award winner Dianne McIntyre.



Clockwise from left, Tri-C's Aarionna Banks learns how to put some bounce in her step; DTH member Jordan Kindell makes a point; DTH dancer Da'Von Doane manages the microphone while dancer Alicia Holloway strikes a classic pose; Tri-C track team member Amber Ruiz-Bueno stretches out with Doane.



The master class took place in the Metropolitan Campus Recreation Center and focused on breathing and movement. Four dancers met with the team: Da'Von Doane, Lilit Hogtanian, Jordan Kindell and Alicia Holloway.

Students responded to a survey issued after the class. Asked to name three things they learned by attending this class, one member of the track team responded, "Always breathe, always be present, always be yourself."

Don Cox, track team and field coach, said, "You can't say that dancers are not athletes — talk about dedication and getting the most out of yourself. Can anything be more demanding than dancing six to eight hours a day?"

Tri-C offers master classes throughout the year, often in conjunction with artists who are in town for College-sponsored performances. Recent master classes have allowed students to learn from producer Tommy LiPuma, flautist Jamie Baum, vocalist José James and a cappella jazz-fusion group Manhattan Transfer.

"Going to college is about becoming a well-rounded individual, looking into how others cope and stepping outside your comfort zone to sneak a peek at what others do," Cox said. "We were able to join in and look at and appreciate another culture."



Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland takes it to both the streets and the theaters at Playhouse Square June 22–24.

Swing SET

Tri-C JazzFest
Cleveland adds new
features for 2017

Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, presented by KeyBank, will include some surprises this year.

The festival, now in its 38th year, takes place June 22–24 in and around Playhouse Square, with ticketed concerts indoors and free entertainment on the Strassman Insurance Stage.

New this year, the festival will include Food Trucks on 14th, an expanded collection of local food trucks stationed along East 14th Street. A new Jazz Talk Tent, sponsored by Chemical Bank, also will offer the chance to interact with JazzFest artists.

Look for street boutiques, a beer tent and cooking demonstrations, too.

The indoor lineup this year comprises eight shows. The festival will showcase jazz icons with decades of hits, artists at the pinnacle of their craft and emerging talent just beginning to etch their names in the industry.

“These world-class artists reflect the diversity, power and soul that make this music such a beautiful art form,” said Terri Pontremoli, director of the festival. “We’re looking forward to celebrating jazz culture with Cleveland and regional audiences.”

Here is the indoor lineup, with show times and locations:



Chris Botti



Dianne Reeves



Jane Bunnett and Maqueque



Boz Scaggs



Catherine Russell

Thursday, June 22
CHRIS BOTTI WITH DIANNE REEVES OPENING — 7:30 P.M.
Connor Palace

Trumpeter Chris Botti is a Grammy winner, with four albums having reached No. 1 on Billboard's jazz charts. With a buttery-rich and fluid voice, the legendary Dianne Reeves has won five Grammys for Best Vocal Jazz Performance.



Terence Blanchard

Friday, June 23
TERENCE BLANCHARD'S BLUE NOTE SESSIONS — 6 P.M.
Ohio Theatre

Trumpeter Terence Blanchard and a few musical friends — Kenny Barron, Ravi Coltrane, Carl Allen and David Pulphus — perform music he composed for the Robert DeNiro film *The Comedian*.



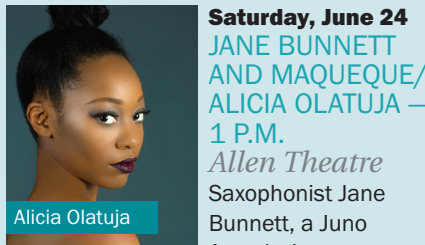
Boney James



Norman Brown

BONEY JAMES WITH NORMAN BROWN OPENING — 8 P.M.
Connor Palace

Saxophonist Boney James fused a love for vintage soul music with mastery of modern production to become one of Billboard's Contemporary Jazz Artists of the Decade for the 2000s. Norman Brown — a guitarist, composer and singer — has offered tasty sonic tidbits of classic R&B and contemporary jazz for two decades.



Alicia Olatuja

Saturday, June 24
JANE BUNNETT AND MAQUEQUE/ALICIA OLATUJA — 1 P.M.
Allen Theatre

Saxophonist Jane Bunnett, a Juno Award winner, routinely launches creative and exciting projects with Cuban artists such as the five young women in Maqueque. Newcomer Alicia Olatuja earned praise from the *New York Times* as "a singer with a strong and luscious tone and an amiably regal presence on stage."



Diego Figueiredo



Anat Cohen

DIEGO FIGUEIREDO/ANAT COHEN CHORO ENSEMBLE — 3:30 P.M.
Ohio Theatre

Guitarist Diego Figueiredo fuses jazz, bossa nova and classical in a way that made him a winner of the Montreux Jazz Competition and VISA Prize. Anat Cohen, a clarinetist and saxophonist, blends Latin-infused original jazz with the rich musical traditions of Brazil in her *Choro Aventuroso* program.



Kamasi Washington

KAMASI WASHINGTON — 6 P.M.
Allen Theatre

Kamasi Washington and his band, *The Next Step*, offer a modern spin on a big band with two drummers, two acoustic bassists, keyboards, three horns, a pianist and a vocalist. He recently worked on Kendrick Lamar's acclaimed 2015 album *To Pimp A Butterfly*.

BOZ SCAGGS WITH CATHERINE RUSSELL OPENING — 8:05 P.M.
Connor Palace

Boz Scaggs performed with the Steve Miller Band in the '60s before embarking on a solo career that produced classic albums such as *Silk Degrees* (1976) and *Middle Man* (1980). Catherine Russell's musical resume includes six chart-topping albums and a Grammy as a featured artist on the *Boardwalk Empire* soundtrack.



Terence Blanchard

TERENCE BLANCHARD'S E-COLLECTIVE — 10:15 P.M.
Allen Theatre

Terence Blanchard's E-Collective offers a socially conscious journey into an exciting zone of grooved fusion teeming with funk, R&B and blues. He recorded his next album, *Caravan*, during live performances with the E-Collective in Cleveland, Minneapolis and Dallas earlier this year.

Festival passes offer VIP seating to all eight ticketed concerts, plus other perks, for \$250. Call 216-640-8800 to purchase.

Individual tickets are on sale through the Playhouse Square Box Office at www.playhousesquare.org or 216-241-6000.

The festival typically draws tens of thousands of people downtown. A full roster of Tri-C JazzFest events, including free community concerts and educational activities in the months leading up to the festival, is at www.tri-cjazzfest.com.



SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS

Tri-C basketball coach Michael Duncan guides players to achievement on the court and in the classroom

Michael Duncan grew up in Cleveland, a long 3-point shot away from Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus. His basketball skills attracted the attention of community college coaches around the nation in 2002.

The gifted guard signed with Eastern Arizona College, packed his high tops and headed west. Duncan never considered playing for Cuyahoga Community College.

Today, he calls that his 2,000-mile mistake.

Duncan spent one disappointing year in the desert before heading home. A buddy from his days playing high school basketball at Cleveland Central Catholic recommended that Duncan come to Tri-C.

"He said, 'I'm telling you, man, you'll like it,'" Duncan remembers. "I just had to give it a chance."

So Duncan enrolled at the College and basically majored in success. He played on the school's national championship basketball team, earned credits toward a future bachelor's degree and built a foundation for his future.

Today, Duncan — now the head men's basketball coach at Tri-C — often shares that story with high school recruits deciding where to continue their education.

"I speak from personal experience, because Tri-C changed my life," Duncan said. "It put me on a different path than the one I was heading on and brought me stability. Opportunity is available here."

Duncan just completed his third year as coach of the Challengers. He guided the team to a record of 28-3 during the 2016-2017 campaign and a share of the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference championship.

Tri-C also ascended to No. 2 in the national rankings during the season, which ended with Duncan being named the conference's Coach of the Year.

The team reflected its coach, playing a hard-nosed style of ball where everyone contributed.

"Coach is on top of everybody to play hard," said Wade Lowman, a freshman forward from Philadelphia. "He pushes us with the goal of being in the national championship. He demands the best out of us."

That mandate for excellence extends to the classroom, too. Team study tables take place three times a week. Skipping one is not an option.

The increased emphasis on studies under Duncan has brought results. In the fall semester, the men's basketball team posted its highest GPA in years while outperforming the overall student body.

"These kids are all about basketball, but they have to understand the ball only bounces for so long for any player," Duncan said. "They need to succeed in their classes. That has to be their priority."

Duncan understands the value of a Tri-C education. His year at Metro Campus provided an academic base for the bachelor's degree in sociology he earned from Livingstone College in North Carolina.

He followed that with a bachelor's degree in special education from Notre Dame College in South Euclid, which he puts to use while teaching at Apex Academy in East Cleveland.

Duncan is currently finishing work on a master's degree from Notre Dame.

"Never stop learning," Duncan said. "Academics is key to everything."

Of course, that doesn't mean there isn't room for hoops.

Winning a national championship while playing at Tri-C still ranks as a life highlight for Duncan. The

CHALLENGERS SCORE BASKETBALL AWARDS

All-conference honors follow seasons of success for men's and women's teams

The winning continued even after the Tri-C men's and women's basketball teams completed their 2016-2017 seasons.

The Ohio Community College Athletic Conference awarded all-conference honors to six student-athletes from the College following a season of success on the hardwood. The men's team finished the season 28-3, while the women's team went 21-8.

Devon Robinson claimed the Freshman of the Year award and First Team All-OCCAC honors. The guard/forward ranked second in the conference in rebounding with 10.2 per game while also averaging 11.6 points per game for the Challengers.

Two teammates joined Robinson in earning all-conference recognition, with freshman forward Quintin Dove being named Second Team All-OCCAC and freshman center Wade Lowman grabbing Honorable Mention All-OCCAC honors.

For the women's team, sophomore guard Darian Carter made First Team All-OCCAC after scoring 20.4 points per game — second in the conference. She also averaged 6.3 rebounds per game and was second on the team in assists.

She was joined by sophomore center Ebony Young, who was selected Second Team All-OCCAC, and sophomore forward Daesia Avery, who was named to the conference All-Defensive Team.



Challengers won 11 games in a row to end the 2004 season, capping the run with a 74-67 victory over Mott Community College in the NJCAA Division II final.

Mementos from that season fill a trophy case just outside the Metro Campus gym where the current team practices and plays.

Duncan's goal is to add more.

"We proved that winning a national championship is possible at Tri-C," Duncan said. "I want my players to experience that feeling at the end of a season. I want them to find their greatness."



Jim Gardner instructs students in the College's Ford MLR program.

Playing AGAINST TYPE

Auto Tech instructor's drive to learn takes him in unexpected directions

At first glance, Jim Gardner looks like a typical Auto Mechanic. But dig a little deeper and you'll find that this former ice dancer with a Ph.D. in urban education is anything but typical.

Gardner, an associate professor of Automotive Technology at Tri-C's Western Campus, inspires students by sharing stories from his own life. "I'm just a regular guy, but my persistence and hard work got me where I am today," he said. "If I can do it, they can too."

The Parma native went to work as a truck and automobile mechanic right out of high school and, a few years later, chose to advance his vocational education at Ohio Diesel Technical Institute.

Upon graduating at the top of his class in 1980, Gardner was offered an assistant instructor position at the school. Though he chose not to take the job, he began to wonder if he had what it takes to become an effective educator.

With more than a decade of experience as a mechanic, Gardner took a chance by accepting a full-time position teaching high school students

at EHOVE Career Center in Milan, Ohio. At the same time, he began a vocational education certificate program at the University of Toledo.

"Making the transition from repair technician to instructor was a struggle at first — I had a lot to learn," he said. "But that struggle is what kept driving me and kept me going to school."

Once he received his teaching certificate, Gardner began taking classes at Tri-C (where he had also begun teaching as an adjunct), eventually earning an associate degree. From there, he earned a bachelor's

degree in industrial management from David N. Myers University and a master's degree in instructional design from Florida State University.

In between teaching classes and completing his own coursework, Gardner was able to carve out quality time with his two young daughters, Denise and Emily, joining them on the ice at the local skating rink.

"Rather than dropping them off for lessons and picking them up later, I decided to learn to skate too," he said. "I loved spending time with them, learning something new together."

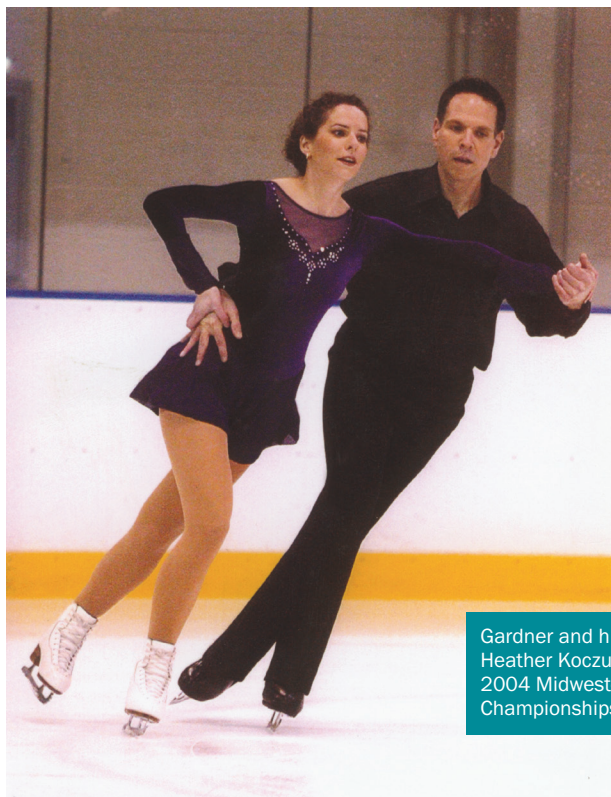
Gardner and his daughters competed in synchronized team skating, and Gardner himself even won a few medals for ice dancing — though, in his mind, talent had little to do with it. "I was never good at skating," he said. "I was just determined."

Eventually, Gardner and his daughters became volunteer skating coaches with Trinity Special Olympics in Lakewood. For nearly 10 years, their Saturday mornings were spent teaching skating skills to young athletes with varying abilities and disabilities. "There were kids who could barely walk on solid ground, and we were able to get them skating," said Gardner. "It was incredibly rewarding for all three of us and helped me with my teaching skills."

But learning was still high on Gardner's list of priorities. He gave up skating to enroll in a doctoral program at Cleveland State University, where he earned his Ph.D. in urban education this past fall.

A true lifelong learner, Gardner isn't content to stop there. He is currently enrolled in an abnormal psychology class at Tri-C and plans to begin courses in American Sign Language in the near future.

Gardner's interest in ASL began four years ago when he suffered sudden hearing loss, which left him with no usable hearing in one ear and moderate to severe hearing loss in the



Gardner and his skating partner, Heather Koczur, compete in the 2004 Midwestern Adult Sectional Championships.

"I'm just a regular guy, but my persistence and hard work got me where I am today."

— Jim Gardner

other. Recently, he has had a hearing-impaired student in several of his classes. "ASL interpreters translate for him in the classroom and in labs, but I'd like to learn the basics myself so I can connect with him a little better and help him thrive," said Gardner.

After many years as both a teacher and a learner, Gardner's goal in the classroom remains simple: help students fulfill their dreams. "I know it sounds incredibly cliché, but that's what gets me out of bed every morning," he said. "Each student has their own story and their own challenges and goals. It's endlessly challenging and fulfilling for me."

On his journey from mechanic to tenured professor and beyond,

Gardner's wife Gloria has been a constant source of support. "Without her, I never would have achieved all that I have," he said. "She was right there with me through it all. She's a special lady."

Now that he's finished his doctoral program, Gardner has time to indulge in a variety of hobbies — from the expected, such as riding his motorcycle and working on station wagons, to the unexpected, like perfecting his crême brûlée.

"I also spend a good deal of time exercising, trying to stave off old age," he said.

They say learning keeps you young — if there is any truth to that, then Gardner has little need to worry.

Tommy LiPuma: *A Lasting Legacy*

Celebrated music producer nurtured artists, students

Throughout his life, producer Tommy LiPuma nurtured the careers of artists like Miles Davis, Diana Krall, Leon Russell, George Benson, Barbara Streisand ... the list goes on and on. During more than 40 years in the industry, he earned the title of “legend.”

But LiPuma also nurtured learning. Following his \$3 million legacy gift to Cuyahoga Community College, Tri-C in 2012 christened its cutting-edge arts center the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts.

“I’m quite excited to be involved with Cuyahoga Community College and to leave a legacy here for the future,” LiPuma said at the ribbon cutting. “I feel like I’m giving something back to the community and the town I got my break in, that I started in the music business in. It’s a very satisfying thing.”

LiPuma died March 13. He was 80 years old.

“Cuyahoga Community College has been proud to call Mr. LiPuma a friend and supporter for many, many years,” said Alex Johnson, Tri-C president. “We were honored when he chose Tri-C to establish his legacy in Greater Cleveland. He chose Tri-C to leverage his musical genius and generosity to build and sustain the College’s music programs and preserve the legacy of its annual JazzFest.”



Tommy LiPuma with Dominick Farinacci at a recording session in 2015 at the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts at Tri-C.

The center that bears LiPuma’s name features modern recording studios, digital labs, dance studios, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum’s library and archives, the JazzFest Legends Wall and more.

“Seeing Tommy’s eyes light up when he saw the naming of the building in his honor was a magical moment for me,” said Jerry Sue Thornton, Tri-C president emeritus. “While the naming of a building tells only a part of the legacy that is Tommy LiPuma, it is a symbolic way to showcase the career of a man that created magic as a musician and producer.”

LiPuma, winner of five Grammy awards, frequently visited Tri-C to lead master classes with students and to enjoy the friendships he shared with members of the faculty and staff.

“Students were in awe of Tommy,” said G. Paul Cox, dean of Creative Arts at Tri-C. “He had this legendary reputation as a producer, so they hung on every word in his master classes. He was also curious about what students in the film and art programs were up to. But his heart was in jazz. Students will remember his high standards, the importance of listening to the great artists, especially



the singers — Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Diana Krall — and appreciating the rich history of jazz."

Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland honored LiPuma in 2016 with a Big Birthday Bash celebrating his 80th birthday. The star-studded concert featured performances by Krall, Russell, Al Jarreau, Dr. John and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. LiPuma had to stretch to cut the 5-foot-tall birthday cake, perched on a pedestal and prepared by the College's Hospitality Management Center.

In 2015, LiPuma managed the boards in his namesake arts center when trumpeter and former Tri-C Jazz All-Star Dominick Farinacci recorded his album *Short Stories*, released in 2016 by Mack Avenue Records. LiPuma and Farinacci assembled their own all-star team for the sessions that included Jacob Collier, Steve Gadd, Larry Goldings, Jamey Haddad, Christian McBride, Dean Parks and Al Schmitt. The project allowed students an up-close-and-personal look at the work of professional musicians in the studio.

"He was passionate about our students and faculty, and committed his time and talents to provide opportunities for advancement," said Gloria Moosmann, former vice president of development and the Cuyahoga Community College



Tommy LiPuma meeting with Tri-C students in 2012

Foundation. "When he first saw his name on the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts, with tears in his eyes and a radiant smile on his face, he said, 'I am so honored and humbled. I'm just a guy from Cleveland.'"

Born in Cleveland, LiPuma first entertained a career as a barber, but after taking a job with a local music distributor, his future was set. He would go on to become one of the most successful producers in the music industry.

LiPuma earned Grammys for his work on Krall's album *Live in Paris*,

Benson's song "The Masquerade" from his album *Breezin'*, the Natalie Cole album *Unforgettable . . . with Love* and the Paul McCartney albums *Kisses on the Bottom* and *Live Kisses*. His work has resulted in 75 million albums sold and 33 Grammy nominations in all.

LiPuma worked for various labels over his 40-year career, spending 1999 to 2011 as chairman of the Verve Music Group. However, he was unable to keep himself from the studio. His last project was as producer for Diana Krall's *Turn Up The Quiet*, to be released in May.

COME HUNGRY



Tri-C announces plans for 'Cleveland Eats' culinary festival in September to showcase the region's food renaissance

Northeast Ohio's food culture, chef-driven restaurants, craft beer scene and farms will be celebrated in September during

Cleveland Eats, a two-day culinary festival organized by the Hospitality Management Center of Excellence at Cuyahoga Community College.

The food and entertainment festival will take place Sept. 15-16, a Friday and Saturday, on the Mall B outdoor event space above the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland.

"The table is being set for an amazing experience in the heart of the city," said Michael Huff, the College's dean of Hospitality Management. "Some of the finest food in the nation comes out of Cleveland's kitchens. We want to give people a taste of what's here."

Cleveland Eats will showcase the hospitality industry's impact on the Northeast Ohio economy while highlighting Tri-C's vital role in training the skilled workers needed to continue the region's restaurant renaissance.

A cooperative of corporate and civic



Cleveland Eats Culinary Council

partners is staging the festival, and a Culinary Council guiding the planning process represents a "Who's Who" from Cleveland's food scene.

The Council includes Ben Bebenroth, Jonathan Bennett, Zack Bruell, Brandt Evans, Heather Haviland, Chris Hodgson, Christopher Kafcsak, Douglas Katz, Karen Monath, Jonathon Sawyer, Karen Small, April Thompson, Eric Wells and Zdenko Zovkic.

The family-friendly festival will include culinary competitions and classes; food from the region's top restaurants; craft beer tastings and kiosks; and musicians, dancers, artists and other entertainers.

A gala preceding Cleveland Eats will raise scholarship money for Tri-C culinary students and the city's next generation of great chefs. The

event will showcase the talents of the College's culinary students and faculty, who will be working side-by-side with chef partners from the city.

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation will host the gala Sept. 14 at Tri-C's Hospitality Management Center and Pura Vida restaurant, located next door to each other on downtown's Public Square.

Details on festival schedules, participants and pricing will be released closer to the event. For more information, visit www.tri-c.edu/clevelandeats.

Tri-C's Hospitality Management Center of Excellence is recognized nationally for its high-quality programs. The College offers associate degrees or certificates in culinary, restaurant management, lodging/tourism and event planning.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

Jimi Izrael

Jimi Izrael is a “Tri-C student from way back.” Today, the Euclid resident is the widowed father of four and a project manager/student media advisor at the College. He started a project called My Tri-C Life about three years ago.

TRI-C TIMES: What is My Tri-C Life?

JIMI IZRAEL: It is an interdisciplinary, blind collaboration wherein students from First Year Experience, English and other classes script out real-life scenes from their Tri-C life that another student illustrates into an eight-panel story in comic-strip form. The first two issues involved all campuses. Currently, it is decidedly Metro-centric.

TCT: What was its inspiration?

Ji: Writer Harvey Pekar, working with artists like Clevelander Gary Dumm, turned scenes from his everyday Cleveland life as an amateur scholar and professional file clerk into a graphic novel series — American Splendor — and received international acclaim. He used to say that we are all heroes of our own stories, and I see heroes every day — in my classes, on campus, at the bus stop. How did they get here? And where do they want to go? How does the life they live compare to the life they want?

These stories matter because our students matter. The more they say, the more we listen, the closer we get, and the better we can serve them. Everyone has a story you can learn from. As Harvey might say, everyday life is pretty complicated stuff.



Jimi Izrael

TCT: What are the goals of the project?

Ji: To get our students trying something new and unique. Also, college life can isolate you at first. If students can read and share how they have navigated through — or not — maybe they won't feel so alone and be empowered to stay the course.

TCT: What are the reasons for not having the artists and writers meet?

Ji: The pedagogical conceit of the thing — to instill rudimentary best practices

about virtual collaboration, a necessary skill in the 21st century — precludes it. Also, consider this: If any of us had the opportunity to direct the caricature artists at Cedar Point, we'd either a) start a fight, or b) it would never get done.

TCT: What has working on this project taught you?

Ji: Patience. Humility. Collegiality. The subtle virtues of Maker's Mark. And the transcendence of a powerful story, well told.

Meet Me @ Tri-C:

Karen Miller

Karen Miller is Tri-C's provost and chief academic officer. In that role, she oversees the College's Veterans Initiative, among other responsibilities.

Victory Media, publisher of *G.I. Jobs* and other magazines serving the military community, recently named Tri-C a Military Friendly School for the eighth consecutive year.



TRI-C TIMES: How is it that Tri-C is acknowledged continually for the services it provides to veterans?

KAREN MILLER: We are constantly engaged with veterans and the military community, both on and off campus, and our team is committed to supporting veterans. The team is always ready to assist, whether it's helping with advising and activation of a veteran's educational benefits or arranging support for a military family in need.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of donors who have committed to supporting the Veterans Initiative, such as the Lerner Foundation, RPM, AT&T and the Arconic Foundation.

TCT: Why does service to veterans matter at Tri-C?

KM: Tri-C is one of the largest veteran-serving institutions in the state, and we take our role to support veterans and their families seriously. We are committed to their success, both here

at Tri-C and beyond in their careers within the community.

Service to veterans is part of the College's history going back to the late 1960s, when Tri-C's original Western Campus occupied the former Crile VA Hospital. For more than 53 years, the College has provided veterans access to affordable education and workforce training programs that allow them to transition successfully from military to civilian life.

Founded in 2007, the Tri-C Veterans Initiative has responded to more than 32,000 inquiries for assistance from student veterans, for everything from benefits to assistance with employment.

TCT: What is a workday in the life of Dr. Karen Miller like? What are your primary responsibilities?

KM: A typical workday starts about 7 a.m. in the office, with lots of meetings.

My primary responsibilities include leadership and oversight of the Access, Learning and Success division of the

College. That includes all academics and curriculum; faculty collaboration and support; program review and accreditation; strategic enrollment and enrollment processes; student affairs and the student experience; and evidence, inquiry and analysis of data.

The position comes with great responsibility, but we have a dedicated and talented team of people at the College committed to the institution and its students. And we have an outstanding leader in our president, Dr. Alex Johnson. It takes the entire team to make it happen.

TCT: What is most rewarding about your job?

KM: Helping build and shape the culture at the College and making a real difference in the lives of our students. I can't imagine a more fulfilling role.

TCT: What are three things you can't live without?

KM: My family and friends (and Bella, my dog), my cell phone and coffee.

#mytricstory

What's your advice to students?

"Re-evaluate your priorities after each semester. Your goals may change, so look at different careers and avenues and keep your options open. You never know where life will lead you. It's a journey, not a sprint. Pace yourself. You might have certain goals, but then life happens. Figure out how you're going to bounce back when life hits you really hard."

— Christopher, #TriCWestshore, Computer Science #MyTriCStory



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



Mobile Training Unit

Cuyahoga Community College's Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence builds upon the long history and strength of manufacturing in Northeast Ohio by recognizing the need for trained professionals in the region's manufacturing sector.

We continue to expand our efforts to provide customized training solutions.



Tri-C's Mobile Training Unit

The 53-foot unit features an instructor station and seating for 10 students, including one handicap-accessible station.

- Provides demand-driven training at client sites
- Can accommodate multiple training classes
- Helps retain employees and keeps businesses competitive through skills upgrade and process improvements
- Initial training programs include
 - CNC Machining
 - Welding Techniques
 - 3D Printing
 - Programmable Logic Control



For more information, visit www.tri-c.edu/mobileunit or contact Starr Sherman at starr.sherman@tri-c.edu or 216-987-0146





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