



## FOCUS ON STUDENTS AND VETERANS



Mr. Richard A. Chiricosta,  
Chairperson,  
Tri-C Foundation

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Board of Directors is so very appreciative of Mrs. Norma Lerner and The Lerner Foundation for their commitment to affordable education for each individual in Northeast Ohio and especially for our

Veterans. For nearly a decade, the Lerner family has enhanced the lives of Tri-C students by providing much-needed scholarships to support their education through the Alfred Lerner Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The new Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center at the Eastern Campus will transform lives through education and allow Tri-C to enhance services and programming supporting student Veterans and their families.

We could not do this without the help of our community of supporters. Each gift that we receive through the Tri-C Foundation is an investment in our College, in our students, and in our community. Your investment helps to create a legacy of providing educational services to a diverse community of Veterans and to all Tri-C students. We see firsthand the impact we are making on our students and, let me assure you that you will be pleased with and proud of your investment. Your gift of education will benefit our entire community. Thank you for your support.

Richard A. Chiricosta  
Chairperson,  
Tri-C Foundation

## Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center Makes a Difference in the Lives of Veterans at Tri-C



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 3/25<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps at the dedication of the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on April 23, 2015.

The new Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) honors the legacy of Mr. Alfred Lerner – a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, industry leader and philanthropist. The Center, made possible with the generous support of Mrs. Norma Lerner and The Lerner Foundation, provides Veterans with a full array of support services to help them reach their educational goals as they transition from soldiers to civilians and become contributors to the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio.

Tri-C has provided services to more than 25,000 Veterans and their family members over the past three academic years. The College links Veterans with College Success Teams to connect them with tutoring, financial assistance and other resources. Named a “Military Friendly School” for six consecutive years by *GI Jobs Magazine*, Tri-C also provides financial assistance through scholarships such as the Tri-C Foundation’s Veterans Scholarship Fund and its Alfred Lerner Memorial Scholarship Fund.

“Embedded in Cuyahoga Community College’s mission is a strong commitment to continually develop programs and strategic transition services for Veterans,” Tri-C President

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ALEX  
JOHNSON



A handwritten signature of Alex Johnson in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.  
President  
Cuyahoga Community College

## Celebrating Student Success at Commencement

Frequently, those of us in academia mark the passage of time not by the traditional calendar, but by the academic calendar and its flagship Graduation Day. Last month I had the privilege of presiding over the celebration of the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Commencement Ceremony for Cuyahoga Community College. Commencement is always a joyous day for us all, as we watch our students cross the stage to receive their diplomas and be recognized for completing their associate degrees and certificates. The day marks the beginning of a new future for many graduates.

College completion is of the utmost importance to us at Cuyahoga Community College. Our commitment to student success and degree completion is evidenced through the implementation of several new initiatives, including the First Year Experience and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Completion Scholarships. Through the support of generous donors, the Foundation's Completion Scholarships are awarded to students who have clear focus and direction for obtaining their degree or certificate, are committed to completing college, maintaining a grade point average that demonstrates their ability to succeed in college-level work and continually enrolling in college-level courses that lead to a degree or certificate.

These initiatives are making a difference for students. Tri-C has increased the number of degrees and certificates awarded by more than 50% since 2010. We are pleased to welcome the Class of 2015 to our alumni family. We have much work left to do, and we can't do it without your partnership. Thank you for your continued support. ■

## Japan Foundation of Los Angeles Funds Program Enhancement

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation is grateful for the support of the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles as a new partner to enhance the College's Japanese Language Department. Their support will help increase Tri-C's number of Japanese language course offerings for our community. Our collaboration will help promote student involvement in Tri-C's Japan Club and increase cultural awareness and understanding of the Japanese culture. This initiative is in alignment with the College's commitment to a high-quality liberal arts education. Scholarly engagement in the humanities, including language courses, helps produce well-rounded students who are prepared to successfully transition into

**JAPANFOUNDATION**



four-year institutions and our increasingly global economy. With the support of the Japan Foundation, the College will provide students with

the opportunity to dialogue and improve their Japanese language skills while becoming more informed citizens who add value to our community. The College is proud to partner with the Japan Foundation to support student success and develop enhanced educational experiences. We look forward to future projects with the Japan Foundation and other engaged partners to further inspire cultural awareness and diversity in our community. ■



## Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center Makes a Difference in the Lives of Veterans at Tri-C *(Continued from page 1)*

Dr. Alex Johnson said. “Mrs. Lerner’s generous support will help Veterans and their families build bright futures through the opportunity of educational excellence.” Tri-C and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation estimate that more than 10,000 Veterans and their families will benefit from the Center every year.

A gift from The Lerner Foundation established an endowment to support the Center’s programs, which include services for re-entering Veterans and their families, case management systems tailored to each Veteran and his or her academic and career goals and outreach activities offering personal and professional growth opportunities. An area on the second floor of the Eastern Campus Student Services Center was re-designed to provide an engaging environment for Veterans and their families. The Center includes areas for private advising, computer labs to enable



Mr. David W. Whitehead, Chair, Cuyahoga Community College Board of Trustees; Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, President Emeritus, Tri-C; Mr. Rick Chiricosta, Chairperson, Tri-C Foundation; Mrs. Norma Lerner, President, The Lerner Foundation and Dr. Alex Johnson, President, Tri-C

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.”

Mr. Lerner served as a Marine Corps officer and pilot from 1955 to 1957. He displayed his love of our country and his 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 support of The Lerner Foundation reflects his long-time devotion to the values and traditions of military service.

“This generous gift is the most recent in The Lerner Foundation’s long-time partnership with Cuyahoga Community College and shows its commitment to increasing access to higher education,” said Gloria Moosmann, Vice President of the Tri-C Foundation. “We are deeply appreciative of

Mrs. Lerner and the Lerner family for their passion and support of Veterans and our mission.”

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation and the College celebrated the dedication of the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on April 23, 2015. ■



The Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center

Veterans to participate in online courses, meeting rooms and educational resource areas.

“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 the Eastern Campus,” said Mrs. Norma Lerner, President

# Cuyahoga Community College Veterans Initiative: A Salute to the Men and Women Who Have Served Our Nation

For over 50 years, Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) has demonstrated its commitment to the men and women who served our nation in the United States Armed Forces by providing Veterans and their families with access to affordable education, workforce training programs and specialized services. These opportunities assist our Veterans and their families in their transition from military to civilian life and help strengthen our regional economy.

In 2007, Cuyahoga Community College established its Veterans Initiative and has responded to over 18,000 inquiries for assistance from student Veterans and their families.

Tri-C's Veterans Service Centers provide outreach and support services to Veterans. The Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center opened in April 2015 at the Eastern Campus. Centers are also located at the Metropolitan, Westshore, and Western Campuses along with the Brunswick University Center and



*“Tri-C is a starting point for many Veterans and the personal support and encouragement that we receive is greatly appreciated.”*

**MS. KRISTI COPEZ**  
*United States Navy Veteran  
and 2015 Tri-C Graduate*

the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. The Veterans Education Connection Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, in partnership with AT&T, is only the second college Center in the nation to be located in a VA hospital. ■

## JPMorgan Chase Closes Skills Gaps in Engineering

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation appreciates the generous support of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to enhance the College's Engineering Technology Program. With their partnership, the College will secure state-of-the-industry equipment to better prepare students to succeed in the technologically-advanced industry.

Projections from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services indicate that there will be significant job openings each year in our region for individuals with associate degrees in various engineering-related occupations. Cuyahoga Community College is well-positioned to support this workforce demand by offering an array of engineering degrees and certificates. Enrollment in the College's Engineering



**Students in Tri-C's engineering program will benefit from JPMorgan Chase gift.**

Program has grown by more than 30 percent over the past five years.

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation's investment will help the College to keep up with change and growth in the industry and to close the skills gaps for more individuals to position themselves for success in the 21st century workforce. The College is proud to partner with JPMorgan Chase's "New Skills at Work" initiative to help more individuals pursue an engineering pathway that enables them to access demand-driven skills training and compete for jobs now and in the future.

JPMorgan Chase has been a long-time partner with the College and we value their continued support of program enhancement and scholarships for Tri-C students. ■



## The Robert L. Lewis Academy of Scholars: Developing Alumni Scholars Who Are Dreaming Big

The Robert L. Lewis Academy of Scholars just completed its seventh year. Students are empowered through classroom study of social justice and their creation of dynamic projects mentored by community leaders. The Robert L. Lewis Academy honors the memory of Tri-C's founding Board Chair, Mr. Robert L. Lewis, and his dream to ensure a humanistic environment within our greater community.

A Tri-C graduate and former Lewis Scholar, Ms. Grace Leon is committed to helping young people make a fresh start. "They need to know that it's okay to make a mistake and it doesn't have to define you," she says.

Ms. Leon knows about starting over. Her husband, Wayne, a member of the Cleveland Police Department, was killed 14 years ago during a traffic stop. As part of her own healing process and her



Ms. Grace Leon  
2010 Tri-C Graduate

Lewis Academy project, Ms. Leon created an extended version of the Juvenile Safe Surrender Project, focusing on youth. The project encourages persons wanted for non-violent felony or misdemeanor crimes to voluntarily surrender to the law in a faith-based or other neutral setting.

"It's important for something horrible to turn around and have something good come of it," Ms. Leon says. She appreciates the support of fellow Tri-C graduate, U.S. Marshal Peter Elliott, with helping her with her project, crediting him as a driving force in making the project a reality.

Ms. Leon is pursuing a social work degree at Cleveland State University and plans to work with people coping with trauma and loss. The Tri-C Foundation appreciates the support of many generous donors of the academy, including numerous individuals and the Roy A. Hunt Foundation. ■

## Dr. Arthur Caliguire: A Tribute for a Lifetime of Serving Others

Dr. Arthur Caliguire taught for nearly 30 years in the history department at Tri-C's Western Campus. In honor of Dr. Caliguire's lifetime of serving others, the Tri-C Foundation has received donations from family members and friends designated for the First Generation Scholarship Fund and Veterans Scholarship Fund. Dr. Caliguire's long and distinguished career included working under President John F. Kennedy as an administrator who established NATO schools and co-founded the JFK School in Berlin, Germany. In addition, Dr. Caliguire served in the Cleveland Public Schools as a Catholic Diocese liaison and started the first African-American exchange student program for high school students in Ohio.



Mrs. Renate E. Caliguire, Dr. Arthur J. Caliguire, and Ms. Desiree Caliguire-Maier at the dedication of Tri-C's Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center.

The College and the Foundation are grateful to Dr. Caliguire for his many years of service and to the generous donors who have supported scholarships for Tri-C students in his name. ■



## Congratulations to Tri-C's Class of 2015: *Welcome to the Alumni Family!*



Tri-C congratulates the 4,608 students – a record number – who petitioned to graduate during the 2014-2015 academic year.

## Tri-C Participates in Walmart Project: Brighter Futures 2.0

Cuyahoga Community College is honored to be one of 12 community colleges in the country selected to participate in the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project, which is supported by a \$3.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to the League for Innovation in the Community College.

The project provides comprehensive services to individuals who want to upgrade their employability to be better positioned to secure middle-skill career opportunities. Basic skills and literacy programs and workforce training in high-demand industries including Information Technology, Industrial Maintenance, Health Care, Truck Driving Academy and other programs are provided to participants.

Program participants benefit from a number of student success services including job readiness and life skills workshops, career coaching, and job placement assistance. Scholarships are also

available to encourage more individuals to enroll in training programs that will help them on a path to economic self-sufficiency. “The Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project is a strong example of a collaborative effort to support participants along the entire continuum, from program intake to completion and employment,” said Dr. Andrew L. Meyer, Vice President, Workforce Development, League for Innovation in the Community College. “More of Cleveland’s community members will exit the program better prepared for success in the labor market.”

The College has engaged local employers and community partners including The Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Council for Economic Opportunities of Greater Cleveland, Towards Employment, and Ohio Means Jobs – Cuyahoga County (Employment Connection). ■



# Tri-C Welcomes Newest Members of Alumni Family at Commencement Ceremony

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) celebrated its 49<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Commencement on Thursday, May 14, at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center. A total of 3,155 students petitioned to graduate. Combined with Fall Commencement, 4,608 students – a record number – petitioned for associate degrees and certificates from Tri-C. The total number of graduates for the previous academic year totaled 4,360.

The rising numbers reflect the College's commitment to student success and the College's Completion Initiative. "The future of Northeast Ohio and the nation brightened as these Tri-C students crossed the stage in recognition of their academic achievement," said Dr. Alex Johnson, president of Cuyahoga Community College. "Their success in the classroom will lead to success in our community."

The College awarded honorary degrees to Tri-C Foundation Director, Mrs. Carole A. Carr and benefactor, Mr. Tommy LiPuma to acknowledge their contributions to the College, the Foundation and the community. Mrs. Carr has made a lasting impact on Greater Cleveland through nearly 40 years of dedicated work supporting education, health



Honorary degree recipients Mrs. Carole A. Carr and Mr. Tommy LiPuma with Dr. Alex Johnson

care and the arts. She has served as a Foundation Director since 2003, generously supporting scholarships for student success. Mr. LiPuma helped shape the sound of popular music during his career as a producer, talent scout and record company executive. He has generously supported the College and its students for years, and in 2012 Tri-C named its arts center the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts in recognition of his contributions.



## Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Also on May 14, the College celebrated the Nursing Pinning Ceremony with 203 graduates, including 31 males, with three students maintaining a perfect grade point average of 4.0. The total number of nursing graduates for the academic year is 406. ■

Tri-C's Nursing Pinning Ceremony, May 14, 2015

# GUEST COLUMN

**SUSAN M. FUEHRER**



Susan M. Fuehrer  
Medical Center Director  
Louis Stokes Cleveland VA  
Medical Center  
Director, Tri-C Foundation

## Community Partnerships: Invaluable Assets in Our Community

In my role as the Medical Center Director of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, I can share with you firsthand how much partnerships with Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) contribute to the long-term success of Veterans. The College's Veterans Education Connection Center in Partnership with AT&T at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center is having a significant impact on helping Veterans access and succeed in higher education. Cuyahoga Community College is one of only two colleges nationally that provides educational and support services to Veterans within a VA hospital.

At our Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, recent months have been busy, with more than 750 veterans accessing the Veterans Education Connection Center. Primary uses of the Center include resume preparation, job search assistance and completion of independent study online courses. In addition, Tri-C hosted the 19th Annual POW Recognition Luncheon, the "Families Serve – They Deserve" benefits for older military families symposium and "Planting of the Poppies" Memorial Day event and community picnic.

The partnerships for Veterans services at Cuyahoga Community College allow us to stand as one, poised and ready as a community to serve those who have served us so selflessly. It is through partnerships like these that we can really see how a community joins together to help take care of the many men and women who have dedicated their lives to our country. ■

## EMPLOYEE DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Nancy Weissman is a Professor and Librarian at the Metropolitan and Westshore campuses. She has been teaching at Tri-C for 21 years and has served as a campus Faculty Development Coordinator, Co-Chair of the General Education Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the Faculty Colloquium, and has presented at numerous library and technology conferences. Ms. Weissman is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology/Instructional Technology from Kent State University and recently published her first professional publication, highlighting the use of virtual library instruction in promoting social, cognitive and teaching presences. In addition, she leads the College-wide Read Poster initiative that promotes reading to all members of the College community.



Ms. Nancy Weissman

Ms. Weissman's long tenure at the College has provided her with a deep understanding of Tri-C's students and the challenges they face in completing their degrees. She believes it is important to "not only support them on the ground level but to go the extra mile and support them financially as well." She added, "We have a responsibility to our students in the classroom and on the campus; supporting the Foundation is a logical extension of our students' success and I am happy to do so."

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation greatly appreciates the support of Nancy Weissman and all of the faculty and staff who generously give back to support student success at Tri-C. ■



## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**GLORIA  
MOOSMANN**



**Gloria Moosmann**  
*Vice President, Development &  
Tri-C Foundation*

## Fostering Student Success and a Community of Leaders for Tomorrow

Congratulations to Tri-C's newest alumni – the Class of 2015. We wish you much success in your future endeavors!

We are growing a community of leaders for the future of our region in our current students. Through scholarly pursuits of excellence, such as the Honors Program Fellowship, the Robert Lewis Academy of Scholars, and our new Scholars Academy, made possible with the support of Mr. Morton Mandel, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and the Mandel Supporting Foundations, we are fostering the leaders of the future.

To continue our success, we must continue to enhance our partnerships and foundation of support. Thank you for all that you do each and every day to help further the mission and garner support for the Tri-C Foundation, the College and the students we serve. ■

*I* NVEST IN PEOPLE

## Right Skills Now Forges Connection Between Education and Jobs

The Right Skills Now Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operations program evolved in 2014 from a collaboration among Tri-C, Swagelok and MAGNET to meet the demand for skilled CNC operators. The program combines 180 hours of training with 320 hours of paid internship at a local Swagelok facility to prepare individuals for a career in the manufacturing industry. Students have an opportunity to earn a national certification by National Institute for Metalworking Skills. Upon successful completion of the internship program, students are offered a full-time position at Swagelok. Students also benefit from scholarship support from Ohio Board of Regents' Ohio Means Internships and Co-Ops funds and The Gene Haas Foundation, as well as a no-cost loan program established by The Edward A. & Catherine L. Lozick Foundation.

Swagelok is a manufacturing company with approximately 4,800 associates, 20 manufacturing facilities and five primary technical centers around the world. To date, 67 students have entered the Right Skills Now program. Swagelok has hired 35 workers. "Tri-C, in collaboration with Swagelok has developed the Right Skills Now program to meet



**Tri-C meets employer needs through workforce training in Metalworking Skills.**

Swagelok's training needs. This program directly connects skilled talent within the region with Swagelok through training, internship experiences, and employment," said Mike White, Program Manager of the Right Skills Now program at Tri-C.

Tri-C is pleased to help individuals obtain manufacturing skills that prepare them for a well-paying job in the region's manufacturing industry. ■

## Tri-C Foundation Recognizes Jerry Kelsheimer with Heath Oliver Distinguished Director Award

The Tri-C Foundation Board has awarded the 2015 Heath Oliver Distinguished Director award to Mr. Jerry Kelsheimer, President and CEO of Fifth Third Bank, Northeastern Ohio. Mr. Kelsheimer joined the Tri-C Foundation Board of Directors in 2003, served as Foundation Chairperson from 2006-2010 and has served on the Executive Committee since 2010. He also serves as a member of the Cuyahoga Community College Board of Trustees, serving as Chair in 2012 and 2013.

The Heath Oliver Distinguished Director Award was established in memory of long-time Tri-C Foundation Director Mr. Heath Oliver, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the College, the Foundation and our students. Like Mr. Oliver, Mr. Kelsheimer has repeatedly shown his commitment to the



**Mr. Jerry Kelsheimer**  
*President and CEO  
of Fifth Third Bank,  
Northeastern Ohio*

ideal of providing essential access to education. He has generously secured presenting sponsor support through Fifth Third Bank for the Foundation's Presidential Scholarship Luncheon for five consecutive years.

"Jerry Kelsheimer's passion and support for the College and the students we serve is an exceptional example of the impact that scholarships can have on the lives of so many. Just as Mr. Oliver, Jerry personifies the high level of personal and professional excellence that is so vital to the mission of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation. Jerry works tirelessly to ensure

future success for the Foundation, the College and our students," said Mr. Rick Chiricosta, Chairperson, Cuyahoga Community College Foundation. ■

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## Alumni Spotlight: Stephanie Coburn

Stephanie Coburn first viewed Cuyahoga Community College as a launching pad for her future. Her Tri-C experience provided her with diverse resources invaluable to her studies and career. An honors student, Ms. Coburn focused on the social sciences, particularly philosophy, bioethics and sociology through the Robert L. Lewis Academy of Scholars. She earned her Associate of Arts degree in 2012 with Magna Cum Laude honors.

As a former Tri-C Foundation scholarship recipient, Ms. Coburn



**Ms. Stephanie Coburn**

believes in supporting scholarships because she knows what a difference they make. "I appreciate the fact that total strangers are willing to help support students," Ms. Coburn said. That is why she has chosen to support Tri-C Foundation scholarship funds.

Still intent on pursuing her nursing dream, Ms. Coburn is working as a medical assistant while completing her second degree at Tri-C, in nursing. She plans a career working with community organizations in public health. ■



# The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Welcomes New Directors



**Dr. Akram Boutros**

**Dr. Akram Boutros** is President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System. He attained his Doctor of Medicine at the State University of New York Health Sciences Center and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.



**Mr. Joseph D. DiRocco**

**Mr. Joseph D. DiRocco** is the President of Citizens Bank in Ohio and received his Bachelor of Science in business administration and accounting from The University of Akron.



**Ms. Claire M. Zangerle**

**Ms. Claire M. Zangerle** is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Science in exercise physiology from Texas A&M University, a Master of Business Administration from Lake Erie College and a Master of Science in nursing from Kent State University.



**Mr. Zdenko Zovkic**

**Mr. Zdenko Zovkic** is the Owner & Restaurateur of XO Steakhouse. The Croatian-born restaurateur has managed several locations in the greater Cleveland area since the mid 90's. In 2003, he opened XO Prime Steaks in downtown Cleveland and has recently expanded to Pepper Pike. ■

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# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



**ANDREA McDUFFIE**  
*Associate of Science*

“First generation students like myself can especially relate to the importance of scholarships, which are the reason why many of us are fulfilling our dreams and conquering our goals. Thank you for supporting student success!”



Cuyahoga Community College Foundation  
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## Cuyahoga Community College Foundation

in partnership with



invites you to attend the

### 2015 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



- KEYNOTE SPEAKER -

Earvin “Magic” Johnson

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

11:25 A.M. – 1:05 P.M.

RENAISSANCE CLEVELAND HOTEL

*Benefiting Scholarships for Tri-C® Students*

*For more information please call the Tri-C Foundation at 216-987-4868*

