

College Readiness Programs

PROMOTE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NORTHEAST OHIO

High school and college completion rates are rising in Northeast Ohio, and Tri-C's College Pathway Programs have helped to drive this increase.

College Pathway Programs (CPP) is led by JaNice Marshall, Tri-C's associate vice president of Access and Community Engagement. CPP enables a smooth transition into college for diverse student populations across the region, including both youth and adults.

"Balancing the access, success and completion agenda in higher education has been an intentional and integrated aspect of College Pathway Programs at Tri-C," said Marshall. "This focus has helped more Northeast Ohio students gain critical skills and experiences to prepare them for broader success within our community."

Serving more than 15,000 K-12 students and over 5,000 adults annually, CPP emphasizes the importance of high school completion and the attainment of higher education or workforce credentials. With an increasing percentage of American job openings requiring a higher level of education, early intervention and support is crucial.

CPP maintains partnerships with numerous area school districts but is particularly focused on improving educational outcomes for Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) students. In 2010, CMSD graduated only 52 percent of its high school students. That number is now on the rise, with 66 percent receiving a high school diploma in the 2014-2015 school year.

There are 19 different programs under the CPP umbrella, ranging from community-based initiatives to intensive college immersion experiences. All programs are grant-funded and free to participants. Four programs in particular have brought the most success to those involved.



COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Launched in 2012, the College Success Program is a partnership between Tri-C and CMSD that prepares students for successful transition into college-level courses.

"Many high school graduates place into remedial math and English courses, costing them additional time and money and making it less likely that they will finish college," said Marshall. "National statistics show that among community college students required to take remedial courses, only one in four completes a degree or certificate."

The program has three components: College Success Outreach Centers (located at six selected CMSD schools) where Tri-C staff work with students to develop individual educational plans; the six-week College Success Summer Academy, which provides accelerated instruction in math, reading and writing; and the First Year Experience,

which pairs freshmen with transition coaches to advise and connect them with support services.

Aminat Adebayo, one of the College Success Program's early participants, earned two associate degrees from Tri-C this spring. She enrolled at the College after successfully completing a Math Bridge course as an East Tech student. Adebayo became involved with campus organizations such as Bridges to Success and Student Support Services, and collaborated with other students to create the Metro African Student Association. She will continue her studies at Case Western Reserve University to become a doctor.

NORTH COAST TECH PREP

Tri-C has led the Ohio College Tech Prep Northeast Regional Center since 1991. Although it covers the smallest geographic area, the Northeast Regional Center serves the largest population of the six centers in Ohio.



Jointly managed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Career-Technical Education, the center works to increase student access to quality career-technical education pathways that provide opportunities to earn college credit while in high school.

"Tech Prep connects young people to incredible opportunities that lead to college completion, industry credentials and sustainable career options," said Marshall.

Curriculum reflects high-demand technical careers in a wide variety of fields, including business, engineering, health sciences, IT, public safety and manufacturing.

Grant O'Bryon attended courses in precision CNC machining at Polaris Career Center as a high school junior. Selected for the Swagelok apprenticeship-to-work program during his senior year, he worked on-site 16 hours per week. Swagelok offered O'Bryon a full-time job with full benefits — including education reimbursement — after he graduated. He enrolled at Tri-C while working at Swagelok to pursue an associate degree in applied industrial technology. Thanks to the articulation agreement between Polaris and North Coast Tech Prep, O'Bryon was able to apply earned credits toward his program at Tri-C.

HIGH TECH ACADEMY

High Tech Academy (HTA) is a dual enrollment program in which CMSD high school students spend half a day

at their home school and attend classes at Tri-C in the afternoon. Since 2000, HTA has offered a rigorous curriculum designed to develop students' academic, technical and leadership skills with a concentration on English, reading comprehension, math and information technology.

Students can choose classes from various HTA pathways, including business management, engineering technology, health careers and IT. Upon graduation, HTA students can continue their studies and apply credits toward an associate's degree at Tri-C.

More than 850 high school students have earned college credit through HTA since the program's inception. The admissions process is rigorous — only a limited number of qualified students are admitted each year. Participants must maintain a 3.0 GPA and complete 15 hours of community service annually.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

One of the longest-running programs offered through CPP, Student Support

Services (SSS) is a federally-funded program established at Tri-C in 1979.

The program's focus is to increase retention, graduation and transfer rates for low-income and first-generation college students through intensive academic advising, career planning, financial literacy, social engagement and personal development.

SSS served 340 students in the 2014-2015 academic year, 86 percent of whom continued to the fall 2016 semester.

SSS participant and peer tutor Angela Garcia was one of eight Tri-C students named to the All-Ohio Community College Academic Team. She is involved with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is a member of the Hispanic Council's Student Excellence Program and the Black American Council's Minority Women's Leadership Initiative. Garcia earned an Associate of Arts this spring and will transfer to the University of Akron to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work. Her ultimate goal is to earn a master's degree in public policy and administration.

For detailed information on CPP's wide array of programs, visit tri-c.edu/pathways.

COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAMS

- ACCESS
- Adult Diploma Program
- Central State and HBCU Transfer Initiative
- College Success Program
- Community and Faith-Based Initiative
- Gateway to College
- High Tech Academy
- North Coast Tech Prep
- Ohio College Tech Prep Northeast Regional Center
- Promise Connection
- Saturday Family Academy
- Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA)



- TRIO programs
- Educational Opportunity Center
- Educational Talent Search
- Student Support Services
- Upward Bound
- Upward Bound Math and Science
- Women in Transition