

# Meet Me @ Tri-C:

## Amer Odat

Amer Odat of Westlake recently completed Cuyahoga Community College's Adult Diploma Program. The 46-year-old is now working for his cousin's trucking company and said he has doubled the salary he earned prior to completing the program. "This program does not just give you a high school diploma; it gives you a career," he said.

**TRI-C TIMES:** What inspired you to enroll in the Adult Diploma Program?

**AMER ODAT:** My sister — after many, many years — got her GED, and that's what inspired me. When I found out about the Adult Diploma Program, I couldn't believe it really existed. It was a second chance for me, and I advise everyone who needs it to take it. It is really an opportunity for anyone who feels the train left him behind. You wouldn't believe how much confidence I have after this program. I started feeling confidence the first week. It started building up little by little, all the way until I got the diploma in my hand. I started to think positively all the time. I started respecting myself.

**TCT:** What industry did you focus on and why?

**AO:** I chose to focus on a commercial driver's license because working for a trucking company is one of the most

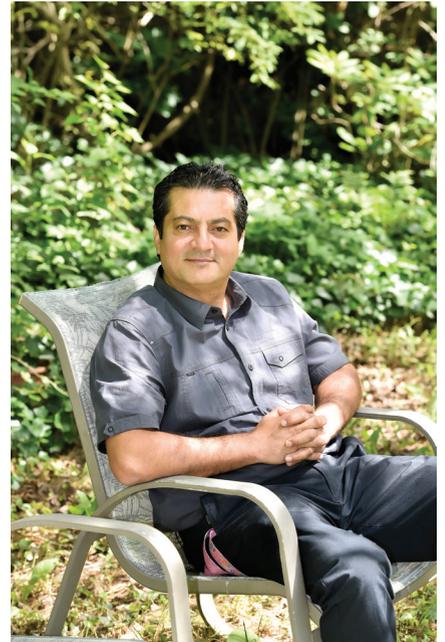
in-demand jobs in America. You can start at \$50,000 a year and go higher and higher every year after that. Some college graduates don't make that much.

**TCT:** What did you find most challenging about the program?

**AO:** The most challenging thing was getting over the fear that I wouldn't succeed, but every day and every week my confidence increased. The fear goes away little by little, and it was gone after about a month. The program is not that hard at all. Tri-C offers so much help — computers, staff, library, advice. I even had teachers sit right next to me and show me what to do when I was struggling with some courses.

**TCT:** When did you move to the United States and for what reasons?

**AO:** I came to the United States in 1994. I'm from Jordan. I served in the army for two years, and I was responsible



for protecting the royal family. Queen Noor [Al-Hussein], wife of the late King Hussein, showed us the beauty of the United States. She was so kind and very human and beautiful. We would watch American movies, and that was the biggest reason I wanted to come to the United States: I wanted to live the American Dream.

**TCT:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**AO:** I love to spend it with my wife and our six beautiful children.

## #mytricstory

### A Complete and Extensive Tri-C Experience

"I feel strongly that Tri-C is a good place to be – both as an employee and as a student."  
Sandy Keovisay

Sandy was a College Credit Plus student at Tri-C while in high school; a college transfer student to Tri-C; a proud 2017 Tri-C graduate and a Tri-C employee.

Sandy plans to continue her education, pursuing a Bachelor of Criminal Justice in Justice Administration on Tri-C campuses through the Tri-C/Tiffin University partnership. (see page 18). Her professional goal is to work as a Victim Advocate.

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