About the Youth Technology Academy at Tri-C

Mission: To ignite the interest of high school students in STEM studies and career pursuits via robotics training, competitions and college credit in technology courses.

The Youth Technology Academy (YTA) is a program whose goal is to provide primarily Cleveland Metropolitan School District students technical training in robotics/pre-engineering and develop their marketable skills via:

- Dual enrollment in College courses
  - Cyber-enabled learning sessions in their home schools and then attending classes on campus (Metro only right now)
- Advanced mathematics and science embedded in classes to prepare students to test out of remedial math and into college-level mathematics
- Practical experience building and programming robots
- Robotics competitions – local, regional, state and national

Students who participate in the YTA automatically become enrolled as Tri-C students, providing them exposure to the College course content and opening the door to post-secondary education in a safe, non-threatening way. Participants are enrolled in college courses through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program (PSEOP).

YTA students will also receive:

- Individual Youth Development
- Leadership Development
- Academic Tutoring
- Mentoring
- STEM Skills Training
- Career Exploration

YTA performance is excellent in that more than 95% of YTA students graduate high school, 86% go on to post-secondary and those who don’t typically are placed in full-time, permanent positions. The overwhelming majority of YTA students who enroll in post-secondary do so at Cuyahoga Community College.

Frontline Staff Information:

- Tracie Haynie – Coordinator – 8 years with program
- Charlena Pierce – Coordinator – 7 years with program
- Kevin Sarran – Lead Field Specialist – 4 years with program
- Gabe Arroyo – PT Field Assistant – 4 years with the program

Staff-to-Youth Ratio: Each Coordinator is responsible for approximately 65 students. The students receive attention from no less than 3 YTA staff each week in that the Coordinators maintain weekly contact, the Field Specialists are at the schools working with the students each week and the Technology Ambassadors provide training, tutoring and mentoring twice weekly. Students are also provided mentoring and informal training by the engineers and faculty who partner on a volunteer basis with the YTA program.
Slot Level: YTA has a contract to serve 125 WIA eligible youth.

Other Information: The YTA was recently awarded two National Science Foundation grants, which allow partnerships with Kent State University and Cleveland State University to foster the development of tools and teaching methods to increase students’ competencies in math. The YTA WIA students will benefit from these innovative partnerships and be exposed to increased academic supports and strategies to help them not only graduate high school but also enroll and succeed in their post-secondary pursuits.

For more information, call 216-987-6302.