

# Tri-C TIMES

## *Sustaining Momentum*

**Sustainability  
initiatives have deep  
roots at Tri-C**

### **MID-YEAR RESULTS**

**Halfway point for three  
first-year Tri-C students**

### **RECORD AND RELEASE**

**Recording session at Tommy  
LiPuma Center for Creative Arts  
reunites two legendary talents**



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## Message from the President

**A**t the start of each new year, we look forward to new beginnings and fresh perspectives. Having accomplished many things, we are prepared for even greater challenges ahead.

There is no denying that 2014 was a year full of innovation and achievement for Cuyahoga Community College, with a record number of graduates College-wide, continuing accreditation for our nursing program and the opening of the Public Safety Training Center. But perhaps our biggest accomplishment was the passage of Issue 6 in November — an incredible vote of confidence from Northeast Ohio residents. Funds will be used to sustain and improve our academic programs while maintaining affordable tuition and keeping technology and equipment up-to-date. On behalf of our students, employees and all who benefit from our programming, I sincerely thank you for your support.

Many of the new student-success initiatives implemented last year will continue into 2015, including the First Year Experience (see p. 12) and the Tuition Guarantee program. We will continue to analyze student data to identify and prevent barriers to success as part of a culture of evidence and inquiry. Students will continue to proactively chart their course to graduation with My Academic Plan. In short, student success will remain at the top of our list of priorities even as we move forward and expand our areas of focus in 2015.

From waste reduction to issues of social justice, sustainability touches nearly every aspect of College life. An ongoing focus on environmental, social and economic sustainability will allow us to continue to effect positive change through programs such as the RN-to-BSN Nursing Continuum and the U-Pass program (see p. 8). The textbook affordability program helps address financial barriers to education while providing access to virtual textbooks, thereby decreasing the amount of printed material consumed. Our Sustainability Implementation Plan, available on our public website, provides more detail on our specific goals and strategies.

Another ongoing theme for the coming year is transparency. Tri-C will follow in the footsteps of the Cleveland Clinic and others by reporting on the progress of selected metrics, each of which addresses student success and completion either directly or indirectly. Our top metrics involve developmental English and math completion rates, fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall retention rates, the three-year graduation rate and total degrees and certificates awarded.

Partnerships and community outreach are integral to the College's success. Our initiatives with greatest impact are made possible through partnerships with fellow community organizations. We recently signed a partnership agreement with the Cleveland and Cuyahoga County public libraries to bring internship opportunities, joint programming and enhanced educational access to Tri-C students and the community. Another agreement with FirstEnergy Corp. will reinstate the award-winning Power Systems Institute this fall.

At Cuyahoga Community College, our continued success depends on your support. Thank you for empowering us to continue to deliver innovative and affordable educational opportunities to the communities of Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Alex Johnson, Ph.D.**  
President



Tri-C employee Shane Reece delivers food scraps from the Metropolitan Campus cafeteria to Rid-All Green Partnership in Cleveland's Kinsman neighborhood for compost.

WINTER 2015

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- Advanced Technology  
Training Center  
3409 Woodland Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
- Brunswick University Center  
3605 Center Road  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212
- Corporate College® East  
4400 Richmond Road  
Warrensville Hts., Ohio 44128
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at Public Square  
180 Euclid Ave.  
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Euclid, Ohio 44117
- Unified Technologies Center  
2415 Woodland Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
- Western Campus  
11000 Pleasant Valley Road  
Parma, Ohio 44130
- Westshore Campus  
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## COVER STORY: SUSTAINING MOMENTUM: SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES HAVE DEEP ROOTS AT TRI-C

“It’s a journey to a societal shift. The trick is getting people to see how social, economic, and environmental systems interact and depend on one another.”  
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### MID-YEAR RESULTS



The halfway point for three first-year Tri-C students is time for reflection and a look ahead to the finish line.

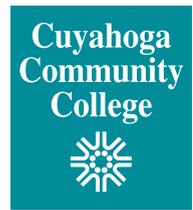
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### RECORD AND RELEASE



A recording session at the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts reunites legendary artists who share Tri-C roots.

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Mary Gygli
- Copy Editor**  
Jarrod Zickefoose
- Writers**  
Beth Dillon  
John Horton  
Karen Sandstrom  
Jarrod Zickefoose
- Contributors**  
Brittany Bajda  
Katherine Khoury  
Tamara London  
Michelle Thomas
- Photographers**  
Tamara London  
Janet Macoska  
David Richard

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Cover: Keymah Durden, a Tri-C graduate and co-founder of Rid-All Green Urban Partnership, dumps food waste from the College’s Metropolitan Campus cafeteria for composting.

## Tri-C Named Finalist for Bellwether Award

Tri-C was named a finalist for the Bellwether Award this year in recognition of innovative initiatives that more than doubled the number of degrees and certificates earned annually by students. The College was a finalist in the category of Instructional Programs and Services, which focuses on efforts to foster or support teaching and learning.



Tri-C was one of 30 colleges recognized by the Community Colleges Futures Assembly, which sponsors the Bellwether Award and announced the finalists in December. It marked the first time Tri-C was named a finalist for the honor, which attracted approximately 1,000 nominations this year.

The College's submission detailed more than a decade of initiatives to improve student success and change the academic culture. The project produced innovations spanning the entire student experience, from the first step on campus through graduation.



## POSTHUMOUS DEGREE CONFERRED AT FALL COMMENCEMENT

All commencement ceremonies have special moments, and Tri-C's fall Commencement was no exception. Amid countless inspirational stories of challenges and perseverance, one particular moment tugged at the heartstrings, as 12-year-old Ryan Crable crossed the stage to accept an Associate of Arts degree awarded posthumously to his mother, Megan.

The College learned of Megan's Tri-C tenure in September when employee Melanie Thompson chanced across Harold Crable, Megan's father, as she canvassed his neighborhood with information on Issue 6, Tri-C's operating levy. After a subsequent review of her academic record, it was determined that Megan, who died of leukemia in 2010, had earned enough credits for an Associate of Arts degree.

In all, the College bestowed 1,453 degrees at the event, held Dec. 17. Spring Commencement is scheduled to take place on May 14.



## Cross Country Record Shattered

Cross country runner Karen Barrientos posted the fastest time in school history and earned All-American honors while leading Tri-C to a top 10 finish at the national championship meet in November.

Barrientos clocked an 18:24 on the 5,000-meter course, lopping 38 seconds off her previous school record. The first-year student became the College's third cross country runner to claim All-American status.

As a team at the National Junior College Athletic Association championship, Tri-C placed 10th out of 36 teams and shattered the school record for average time.

"I've been at Tri-C for 25 years," head coach Don Cox said, "and this is the best team we've had."

## Ohio State Leadership Award Presented to Angela Johnson

Congratulations to Angela Johnson, executive director of Enrollment Operations. Johnson recently received the Ohio State Leadership Award from the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA). This award recognizes the outstanding leadership of a MASFAA member who has gone above and beyond in their contributions to the financial aid profession at the state and regional levels. Recipients exhibit high levels of integrity and character, show creative leadership and inspire and encourage others.



Johnson (left) with MASFAA President Sara Beth Holman

## College Earns Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Cuyahoga Community College for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013. The College has received the award for seven consecutive years. In order to earn the award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that functions as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan and a communications device.



## 19th Annual Tri-C High School Rock Off

After a long and exciting evening of music, the judges awarded the 2015 Tri-C High School Rock Off crown to M4 (pictured), the Erie, Pa. band led by 13-year-old powerhouse singer Audra Miller. Second place went to Never Surrender, and third place was awarded to A Thousand Paper Cranes.

The 19th annual Tri-C High School Rock Off was presented by Live Nation, WJW Fox 8, *Scene* magazine and 96.5 KISS FM. Participating sponsors included The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the Ohio Army National Guard, Guitar Center, School of Rock, MetroPCS, Jim Stewart Recording and Tri-C Recording Arts and Technology. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum's educational activities. The event was produced by Live Nation.

Visit [www.kisscleveland.com/rockoff](http://www.kisscleveland.com/rockoff) for a free download of an original song by each of the 15 finalists recorded at Tri-C's Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts and produced by Jim Stewart.



# COLLEGE ARCHIVE WEBSITE

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History comes  
alive with a click  
of your mouse

**S**ince 2009, the Tri-C College Archive team has worked to collect, preserve and provide public access to materials that document the College's rich history. Some of the most interesting items from the collection have been digitized for the College Archive website. It includes thousands of photos, hundreds of full text-searchable student newspapers, dozens of course catalogs and student handbooks, annual reports, founding and historical documents, JazzFest posters and more. For a fascinating trip to the past, visit the College Archive website at [collegearchive.tri-c.edu](http://collegearchive.tri-c.edu).

For those who want an in-person experience, the physical archive is located on the Metropolitan Campus on the fourth floor of the Student Services building.



Keymah Durden holds a handful of “black gold.”

# SUSTAINING MOMENTUM

*Sustainability initiatives have deep roots at Tri-C*

Every Saturday morning, Shane Reece loads up a truck with food waste from the Cuyahoga Community College Metropolitan Campus cafeteria. The scraps include fruits and vegetables and other compostable leftovers.

## TRI-C GRAD CREATES OASIS IN FOOD DESERT



In the middle of January, an orange tree was bearing fruit inside a Kinsman neighborhood greenhouse. It was the perfect metaphor for the agricultural oasis that Tri-C alum Keymah Durden has helped create at Rid-All Green Partnership.

Durden, with partners Damien Forshe and Randy McShepard, founded Rid-All about four years ago.

“We believe that we can transform a community by helping them improve their diets,” Durden, 49, said. “A healthy resident stock is a healthy community, and particularly in urban areas, health is a big issue because the access to food is very poor. Most people that buy food, they’re buying it from the local mini mart or gas station. You get your lottery tickets, your groceries and your beer all in one stop. We want to offer an alternative.”

The urban farm comprises five greenhouses, a treehouse office, a replica teepee and a big composting operation. Last year, Rid-All sold 1,000 cubic yards of compost.

The farm grows seasonal produce like tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers in summer and mustard greens, cabbage and kale in winter.

Rid-All also raises tilapia using an “aquaponics” set up. Fish waste fertilizes plants that grow above the tanks while plants take nitrates out of the water and return clean water to the fish. It’s a completely self-contained system.

Produce and fish are sold to individuals as well as local restaurants. Rid-All hosts a farmers market in summer, and also offers community garden plots. The non-profit also provides educational programming for students and senior citizens.

The farm accepts food waste from Tri-C’s Metropolitan Campus cafeteria as well as from local restaurants and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. It uses this waste to produce compost, which it sells. Durden said he was working with Tri-C to start taking food waste from the Eastern Campus, which now runs a composting operation on site.

Durden spends his days working as a mechanical engineer. He earned degrees at Tri-C in mechanical engineering and environmental health and science.

Durden, Forshe and McShepard “all grew up here together on the East Side of Cleveland from like 5 or 6 years old . . . After college and work, we decided to come back together and do something positive for our city,” Durden said.

“I didn’t want to just kind of wing it, so I decided I was going to go back to school, get certified and know the language — know what sustainability really is.”



Chef Ky-wai Wong



James Funai

The Tri-C maintenance worker takes the stuff to Rid-All Green Partnership, an urban farm in Cleveland’s Kinsman neighborhood. There, the waste goes into a large pile and, after about six months, is transformed into “black gold,” what Rid-All co-founder and Tri-C alum Keymah Durden calls the compost the waste becomes.

This is but one example of Tri-C’s commitment to sustainability. It’s also one of the more obvious examples in an effort that encompasses the College as a whole and includes initiatives that go beyond recycling and composting all the way to academics.

“People want to be stewards of the resources of the College,” said David November, Tri-C’s sustainability manager. “The efforts are dependent on the dedication of Tri-C employees.”

Tri-C claims four buildings that are LEED certified, a stamp of approval from the U.S. Green Building



Rid-All's aquaponics system allows tilapia to flourish while their waste fertilizes plants.

Council. But a lot of real work goes on almost behind the scenes, in the planning and details.

Tri-C's sustainability efforts include recycling scrap metal, reusing shipping pallets as kindling for the College's fire training program, composting lawn and food waste, shredding and recycling paper, encouraging energy efficiency and other initiatives.

"Sustainability can be found wherever you look for it," November said.

### **Waste Not, Want Not**

Sustainability as a concept took hold at the College around 2007. That was the year the College hired Dr. Craig Foltin, executive vice president of administration and finance, and he noticed there were no recycling containers in his office. Thus began an assessment of Tri-C's sustainability practices.

This resulted in the College's sustainability plan, which was adopted in 2010. It called for pursuing carbon neutrality, reducing the environmental impact of the College's buildings, waste reduction and more.

That year, assistant professor Ky-wai Wong began a composting initiative at Eastern Campus. With help from James Funai, an assistant professor in the Plant Science and Landscape Technology program, students built four composting bins on campus. Food waste from Café 4250 and cooking labs makes its way to the bins and is eventually used for student landscaping projects on campus as well as a community garden.

"We had so much waste left over. I knew there was something we could do, and this was the right thing to do," Wong said.

In 2014, the Hospitality Management Center of Excellence at Public Square began delivering edible leftovers to St. Herman's House in Ohio City and composting food waste at Maggie's Farm in the Stockyards area of Cleveland.

The College also composts all of its yard waste at the Eastern and Western campuses.

November said waste diversion is a fundamental goal of the College; the aim is to be diverting half of the College's waste from landfills by 2025.

"The logistics are the biggest challenge," November said.

At an institution of higher learning, paper also presents a problem. Tri-C recycles roughly 80 tons of paper per year. Faculty and staff are encouraged to think twice before hitting the print button, and when printing is necessary, using both sides of the paper is standard practice. Double-sided printing has saved the College roughly 5 million pages in the last year.

Last year the College began offering its course catalog exclusively online, also saving a significant amount of paper.

November said controlling the use of paper on campus was still a big deal and that he would like to see greater strides made. But the critical element is that people think about it now, where they might not have in the past.

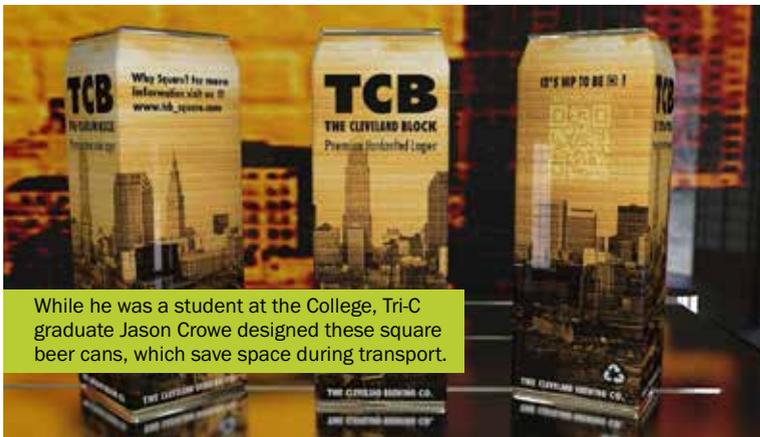
Eastern Campus has a 28,000-gallon cistern that captures runoff for irrigation. Other sustainability initiatives include an increased focus on online marketing, powering down computers at night instead of turning them off and using energy-efficient lighting.

November said that this all fits in with one of Tri-C President Alex Johnson's top priorities: to make the most effective use of resources for the benefit of students. But there is another reason to act in an environmentally responsible way.

"In many cases, it's saving us money. In others it's not costing us more. And it's the right thing to do," November said.

### **Teaching Sustainability**

Composting food waste is but a starting point for sustainability. Sustainability is a mindset, and some of the most interesting sustainability initiatives at Tri-C are happening in the classroom.



While he was a student at the College, Tri-C graduate Jason Crowe designed these square beer cans, which save space during transport.

November said he is interested in supporting faculty who want to integrate sustainability into their curriculum, but he has discovered many are taking the initiative on their own.

Michael Wilkins, associate professor of mathematics at Metro, incorporates sustainability into his spring Statistics II course. Inspired by Earth Week, Wilkins asks students to formulate a question related to sustainability — paper versus plastic, hybrid cars versus traditional cars, nuclear power versus coal, even leaving a PlayStation on all the time versus turning it on and off — and then dig deep into the numbers that underlie it.

“It strengthens their statistical skills and their analytical skills, but it’s also making them aware about the environment,” Wilkins said. “There are so many problems with the environment that blend well with statistics.”

In her package design course, assistant professor Suzanne Meola encourages students to think about the environment. They design shampoo containers that are refillable at the store and reusable takeout containers, for example.

“Most of the time packaging is discarded into the municipal solid waste system, and it takes up one-third of our municipal solid waste system,” Meola said. “So, with that being said, how can we practice product stewardship when we are designing packaging to actually create things that can be reused or repurposed or packaging that is greener and built with material reduction?”

One of her students designed a square, aluminum beer can called the Cleveland Block. It minimizes wasted space during transport.

“I thought this would be over [students’] heads, that it would be too much. That was not the case. They loved it. They thought; they were challenged,” Meola said. “It changes them.”

### The Big Picture

Last year, the College introduced its U-Pass program, which offers students free use of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. This makes getting to and from school easier — or even possible. More than one out of four Tri-C students used public transportation to reach class during fall semester 2014 — a 50

percent increase from the previous year, according to a commuting survey by the College. But there is a sustainability component to the program, too. Riding the bus or rapid helps reduce carbon emissions.

This is a good example of how sustainability works at the College today. It’s not an idea that is forced on new initiatives; it’s a natural part of any move the College makes.

“As a community college, we are key members of the community and part of the progress Cleveland and Northeast Ohio are making toward becoming more sustainable,” November said.

November will tell you that sustainability can be part of any conversation, that there is a social justice component to sustainability (food security, for example). It’s a tricky concept to get your head around, but it speaks to a greater truth. You can talk about sustainability when you talk about anything at all.

“It’s gone from being practiced by people interested in it to being part of the culture,” he said.

While November would like to see the College’s paper waste decrease even further, he also has his sights on some of the more nuanced aspects of sustainability. He said he would like to work with students more. He would like to see sustainability as part of College-wide curricula — across disciplines — so students leave Tri-C with sustainability as part of their worldview.

“It’s a journey to a societal shift,” he said. “The trick is getting people to see how social, economic and environmental systems interact and depend on one another.”

## SUSTAINABILITY FACTS

Cuyahoga Community College has realized many benefits from its sustainability efforts. Here are a few.

- More than \$32 million in cumulative energy and operational savings since starting energy efficiency upgrades in 2001
- Four LEED certifications (three Gold, one Silver)
- 4.8 million sheets of paper saved in 2014 due to double-sided printing and copying, saving \$37,000 in paper costs and 450 trees
- More than 300 tons of waste diverted from the landfill annually through reuse, recycling, or composting — a 30 percent diversion rate

# Mid-year Results:

*The halfway point for three first-year Tri-C students is time for reflection and a look ahead to the finish line*

**E**very college student eventually faces one question: How will I handle my first year on campus? The answer may start a journey to academic success or delay graduation dreams.

Last fall, *Tri-C Times* introduced readers to four students embarking on their first year at Cuyahoga Community College with the aim of documenting their journey. The students all took part in Tri-C's new First Year Experience (FYE) program, an initiative designed to smooth the transition into higher education.

Preliminary data indicates that FYE made a difference, as student retention rates improved by 10 percent between fall and spring semesters this academic year.

Still, there is work to be done. Even with the gains, nearly one out of four first-year students at the College last fall did not return for spring classes. That group includes a student profiled in the magazine's fall edition.

Success stories are becoming more common, though, and we have three to share.

For this issue, we caught up with students David Lee, Robert Scuba and Zac Toth to learn about their struggles and successes since *Tri-C Times* connected with them in the fall. "Adjustment" was a common thread. No matter how skilled the students were academically, they found that college life brings changes.

But adjust they have. Take a look at what they have to say about their first semesters, then check back with us in spring for a wrap-up.



## *David Lee, 19*, LAKEWOOD

David Lee has one piece of advice to offer other college students: communicate with your professor. "If you do that," he said, "you can't fail."

Lee, 19, finished his first full-time semester at Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus with two modest successes under his belt. "I met some new people. I passed all my classes," he said.

He started college last year with plans of entering Tri-C's Auto Tech program. To do that, he has to finish some math and English prerequisites. For fun, he took an art class, where he learned to improve his drawing skills.

But an online computer class almost did him in. His first grades were dismal. Then he met with the instructor and realized that, yes, he really did need to read the book and do the assignments. After that, things got better. He ended up with a C in the class.

Lee also is a social butterfly. He considers it his mission to pay attention to "all different categories of people," including those who may be ignored by others. But he admits that sometimes his social side runs away with him.

"When you're in class, you can't fraternize," he said. "You've got to do your work. Now I'm more focused."

The same goes for when he's at home, where he has to limit the time he spends hanging out with his fun-loving older brother.

His goals haven't changed much since classes started in fall. He still wants to learn auto technology. And in the short-term, he said, "I want to get better grades, meet more people, get in better shape and get better at drawing, too."

## Zac Toth, 19, PARMA

After one semester at Tri-C, Zac Toth is already distinguishing himself. In addition to being featured in this *Tri-C Times* series, he has also appeared in a promotional video for the College.

“My older brother went to the same high school, and he was a good athlete, a good kid. At the beginning of my high school career, I was referred to as Little Toth and Luke’s brother, but now — and my brother went to Tri-C, too, and played basketball — but since this school is so much bigger, it’s kind of like I am making a name for myself without anyone’s help. So it makes me feel really good about myself,” Toth said.

He has every reason to feel good about himself. In addition to his growing media profile, Toth successfully navigated his first semester as a college student. He said it “was more challenging than I thought, but it wasn’t to the point where I couldn’t succeed.”

Toth said he either had too much downtime or papers due in every course.

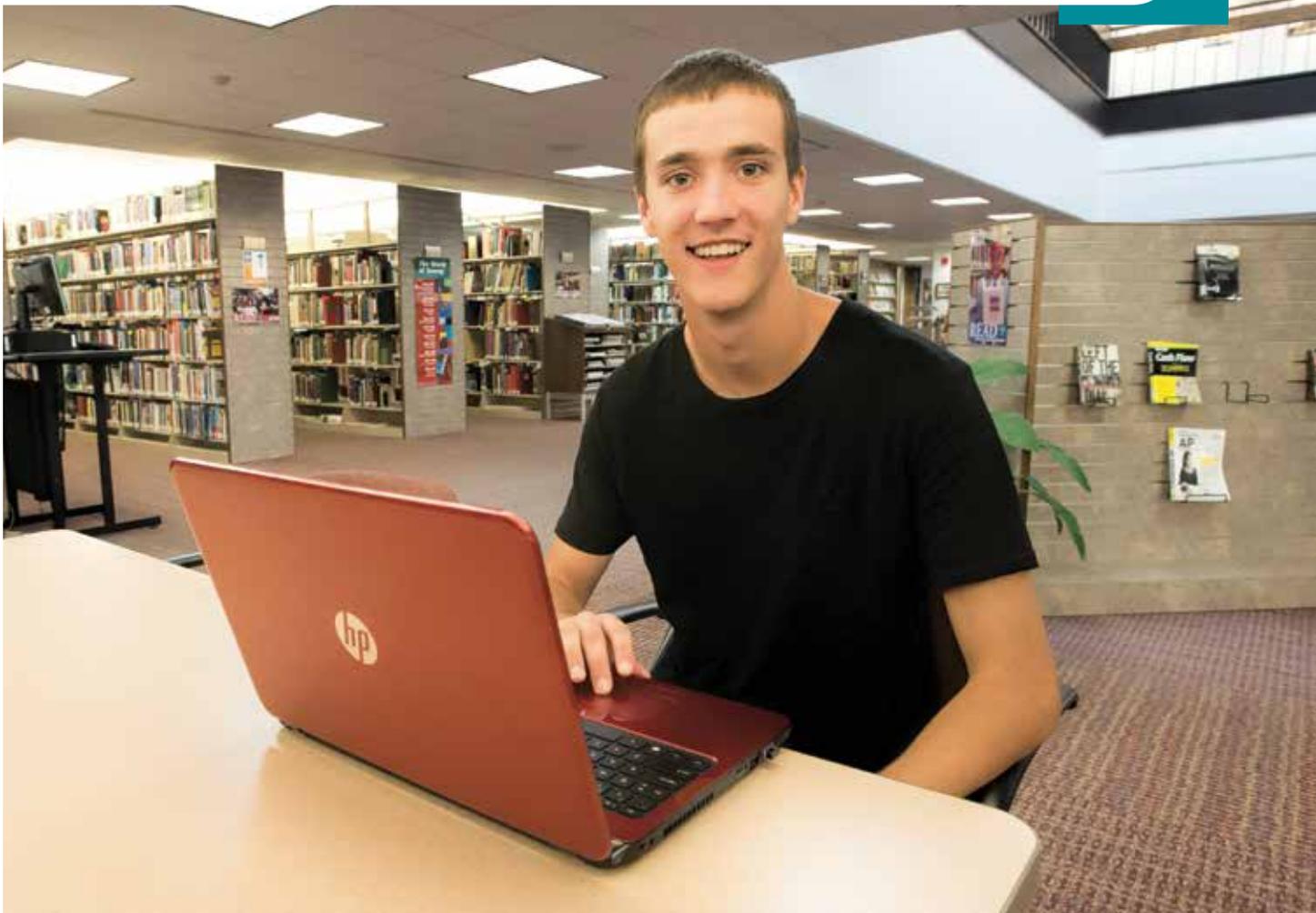
“A major challenge was time management,” he said.

So he developed a creative solution. He would inadvertently pull all-nighters. Toth said that he liked to play video games with friends online, but when 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. rolled around and his friends had logged off, “I would grab my laptop and start typing my philosophy papers.

“I can’t really fall asleep right away, so I would just type some of my papers at night, and I honestly grew to like it, so I started becoming like a night owl.”

Winter semester, he is taking introduction to psychology, speech, English 1020, biology and biology lab and modern day history. He plans to teach history at a high school and coach football.

“I was expecting [my first semester] to be, not really easy, but to be fairly easy. It was actually challenging and hard. I’ve made new friends, and I am really enjoying my time here. You’re independent and it opens your eyes that you’re in the real world now.”





## *Robert Scuba, 19, CLEVELAND*

Robert Scuba summed up his first exposure to college succinctly.

“I did really well last semester,” he said. The transition was “different but relatively smooth. I don’t feel like there was much of an issue transitioning into college from high school.”

His course load included pre-calculus, college composition II, honors organic chemistry and speech. He said that he wanted to keep things fairly simple for his first semester; he took pre-calculus in high school, but still found the college version different. He said it was his most difficult course.

“We had a lot of group projects, and that is something we did not have in high school . . . We had to develop a way to teach other students how we did the problem,” Scuba said.

Scuba said his grades were solid for his first semester. However, his composition course was completely online, and that was new to him and required an adjustment.

“The issue was that it was completely done by yourself, outside of what you were given to do. I felt

like I could have actually written better. I didn’t do bad in that class at all, but I think that was the most interesting because the style is so different coming straight out of high school,” he said.

This semester, Scuba is taking traditional Chinese, calculus I, honors ethics and an introduction to inorganic chemistry.

“My calculus class is probably going to be relatively hard because it’s going to be such a new field opening up to me,” Scuba said.

His likely major is biochemistry, though he has not decided yet.

Scuba set for himself the goal of making new friends as a student at Tri-C. While he was not able to join any clubs as he had hoped, he did manage to form a social circle.

“A lot of my friends from middle school came here and a lot of my high school friends didn’t come here, so it was kind of interesting because I actually went back on friends to an earlier time,” he said.

As for life as a commuter-college student, Scuba said, “I do feel like a college student on campus.”



## PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER *dedicated at Western Campus*

**A** new Public Safety Training Center on the Western Campus was dedicated in October.

The regional center offers specialized training opportunities for police, fire and emergency medical technicians. This facility — part of the College's Public Safety Institute — serves both cadets beginning their careers in emergency services as well as experienced professionals honing their skills.

Located on a 10-acre site that spans the Parma-Parma Heights border, the center includes:

- A two-story burn building where firefighters can practice extinguishing real fires and making emergency rescues
- A propane-fueled burn pad to train in fighting car and dumpster fires
- An indoor shooting range for advanced firearms training
- A paved area to learn techniques for defensive and pursuit driving
- An above-ground trench training area to practice confined space maneuvers and rescues
- Renovated classrooms with state-of-the-art technology
- A military-style fitness and obstacle course area

The state of Ohio provided \$9.7 million to cover the bulk of the expenses for the \$11.4 million project. The center is part of Tri-C's Workforce and Economic Development Division.



# Record and Release:

*Recording session at Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts reunites legendary talents*

**A**rt happened at Tri-C during the first week of February — big, beautiful art made by master musicians — and for a lucky bunch of college and high school students, it was a spectator event.

Trumpet player Dominick Farinacci and producer Tommy LiPuma gathered with a band of veteran session musicians in the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts to play and lay tracks for a new album (unnamed at press time). More than 500 students from Tri-C and visiting high schools and colleges observed the studio work and took part in master classes on music and recording. Student journalists captured photos, video and stories throughout the week.

The album was the first collaboration between Farinacci and LiPuma. Long before Farinacci became Global Ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln Center, or a graduate of the esteemed Juilliard School, he was a Solon High School student and a jazz studies student at Cuyahoga Community College.

“Tri-C became my second home and family from the age of 13,” Farinacci said. “My teachers and the fellow musicians I was surrounded with have become lifelong mentors and friends.”

Five-time Grammy winner LiPuma has spent a lifetime producing recordings for Barbra Streisand, Diana Krall, George Benson, Miles Davis and Paul McCartney, to name a few. In 2012, the Tri-C Board of Trustees named the College’s arts center after him in recognition of his support of the College.

The two share Cleveland roots, but the love of great music is what sets the stage for friendship. “The fact that Dominick is 31 and I’m 78, you wouldn’t know it,” LiPuma said. “We’re like buddies.”

“Tommy is one of my musical heroes,” Farinacci said. “After eight years of staying in touch and wanting to work with him, I got a call from him one day and he said, ‘I heard you play on NPR. Let’s talk about doing something together.’”

The recording project is that “something.” They brainstormed ideas for “anything melodic, and pretty enough, and at the same time that would sound good on the instrument [Farinacci] plays,” LiPuma said.

The song list includes the ’50s jazz favorite “Black Coffee,” the Gnarls Barkley tune “Crazy,” and some of Farinacci’s own compositions. “One is called ‘Doha Blues,’ which is a musical journey through my experiences in the Middle East,” Farinacci said. “Another is called ‘Tango Thing,’ influenced by my love for Astor Piazzolla and lots of music from South America. ‘A Prayer for You’ is a song I wrote for my mom when she was going through a difficult health situation.”

As producer, LiPuma’s job is to direct the project in a holistic way. “This is what producing is about, sitting with the artist, getting a sense of what he wants to



Tommy LiPuma



Dominick Farinacci

do, the artists playing for the producer, and casting the right musicians for what you think you’re doing or what you’d like to do,” LiPuma said.

Here the cast was a who’s who of jazz greats: Christian McBride (bass), Steve Gadd (drums), Larry Goldings (piano), and Dean Parks (guitar). British vocalist Jacob Collier delivered recorded tracks for the project, and Grammy-winner Al Schmitt was engineer.

“They’re all humongously talented,” LiPuma said. “And it’s not like there’s a phone book of musicians of this caliber. There’s less than a handful.”

LiPuma hopes the project will help

further spread the gospel of Farinacci’s artistry. “He’s a very melodic player,” LiPuma said. “He’s got a very sweet sound and he’s got a multitude of ideas. On top of the fact that he’s talented — he’s got the goods to pull off whatever he wants to pull off — he’s a very likeable guy.”

Farinacci’s immediate plan after the recording was “to sleep.”

Then, Farinacci said the music will be “distributed around the world. Details to follow!”

For more news and details about the recording project, visit [www.tri-c.edu/creativearts](http://www.tri-c.edu/creativearts).

# BOARD SCHOLAR *Mireille Tabanji* RELISHES HER TRI-C EXPERIENCE

**M**ireille “Miro” Tabanji — the 2014-2015 Board Student Scholar at Cuyahoga Community College — can tell you all about perseverance.

In 1980, when Tabanji was 18, she fled war-torn Lebanon with her family and took refuge in Jordan. She left her homeland without graduating from high school, as the fighting often forced her to abandon class.

Now, a quarter-century later and half a world away from the turmoil of her youth, Tabanji is working toward an associate degree at Tri-C while representing her fellow students on the College’s board of trustees.

“I could go on and on about how excited I am being a Tri-C student,” said Tabanji, who lives in Rocky River. “I have big dreams I want to accomplish.”

Don’t bet against her.

When her family moved to the United States in 1985, Tabanji was determined to learn English and earn her high school diploma. She quickly reached those milestones and set her sights on college and higher education.

Life provided detours, though. She met the love of her life, Tony, married and had her first son, Anthony. She had a second son, Nathan, and took college classes intermittently while raising her family.

In 2005, Tabanji and her husband opened a fitness center, which they successfully ran for three years. After selling the business, she decided to focus on her college education.

“It was time for me to do something for myself,” Tabanji said of her decision to go to Tri-C.

She began with the Career Exploration class at Tri-C’s Corporate College® West in Westlake and learned a lot about herself. Tabanji also became actively involved with Student Life programs at the College.

When Westshore Campus in Westlake opened in 2011, Tabanji became a student ambassador and joined student government as secretary. The following year, she was elected vice president of the student government and became president of the newly formed Westshore International Club.

Continued hard work and dedication led to Tabanji being named Tri-C’s Board Student Scholar for the 2014-2015 academic year. She was sworn in to the post during a fall meeting of the College’s board of trustees.

In her new role, Tabanji works with student government leaders on all four campuses and brings any of their concerns or issues to the board. She regularly walks campuses to connect with fellow students and learn what’s on their minds.

Tabanji said the highlight of her term came during fall Commencement,



when she participated in the ceremony and sat onstage as the College’s latest graduates filed past to receive their degrees and certificates.

“The goal of every student at Tri-C is to cross that stage,” Tabanji said. “Every one of those graduates walked past with a sense of accomplishment. You could see in their faces how much it meant to them.”

“It made me even more motivated to graduate. I will get my degree.”

Look for her at spring Commencement in 2016.

# TRI-C, CSU LAUNCH RN-TO-BSN NURSING CONTINUUM

## Program provides smooth transition, support services

**C**uyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University have launched the RN-to-BSN Nursing Continuum, a program designed to provide a smooth transition from Tri-C's associate degree program to CSU's bachelor's degree program. A signing ceremony featuring the presidents of both institutions was held in October at Tri-C's Advanced Technology Training Center.

The Nursing Continuum will enable Tri-C graduates licensed as registered nurses to complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees using CSU's online program while working. The program meets the needs of employers as the BSN rapidly becomes an industry standard. Most health systems now require newly hired registered nurses with an associate degree to earn the additional credential within two to five years.

"This program not only supports the regional workforce but also addresses student needs," said Tri-C President Alex Johnson. "They can continue their studies seamlessly while earning a good wage and benefitting from unique support services."

The Nursing Continuum will provide optional in-person seminar sessions that focus on the transition to the workforce for recent Tri-C grads. The sessions will give students a chance to connect with and support one another in their studies and their new roles as nurses.

"Both institutions are committed to working together with our first priority being the career success of our students," said CSU President Ronald M. Berkman. "In addition, students



will have the support of CSU nursing faculty members who will be available to provide personalized attention and mentoring."

The proximity of the two institutions will facilitate in-person meetings between students and CSU faculty for advising and mentoring, services that are often not available with other online programs.

Students will be able to enroll at CSU during their last semester at Tri-C, and a CSU representative will be at Cuyahoga Community College Metropolitan Campus at designated times to answer questions and facilitate transitions between the institutions.

The Nursing Continuum is one of many similar partnerships between the neighboring institutions. Continuum programs are already in place for allied health programs; others, including social work, are in development. The two schools also have articulation

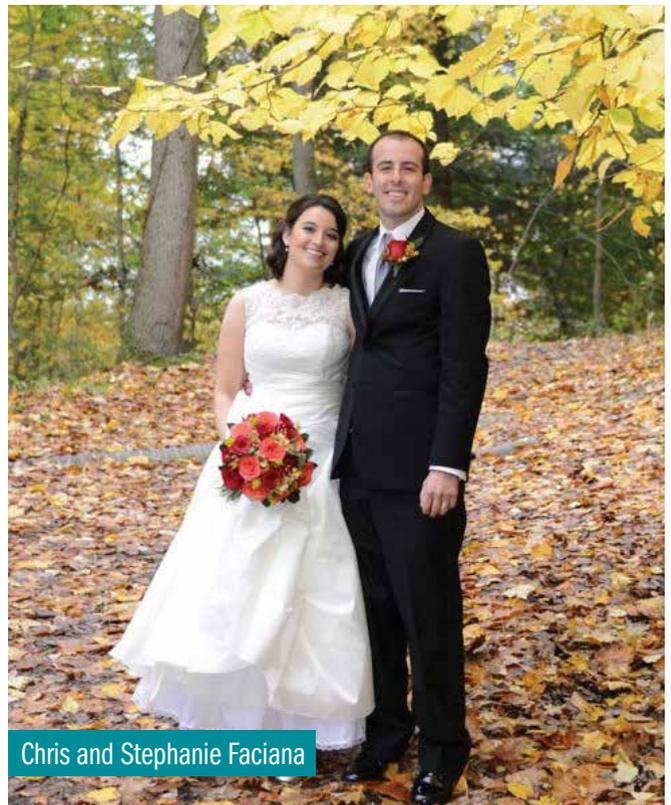
agreements that facilitate the transfer of credits in numerous programs.

CSU's School of Nursing is a member of the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The professional nursing curriculum is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing and is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Cuyahoga Community College is first in Ohio and seventh nationally in awarding associate degrees in nursing. In August, Tri-C's nursing program was granted continuing accreditation status through 2022 by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The national accreditation, which followed a rigorous, months-long review process, signifies that the College's Division of Nursing meets the highest educational standards required by the industry.



Chuck and Beth Cieslik



Chris and Stephanie Faciana

## Cuyahoga Community College is Where Futures Begin — *in more ways than one!*

**O**ct. 18, 2014 was a special day for two couples, both of whom met and fell in love while working at Tri-C. Although Chuck and Beth Cieslik and Chris and Stephanie Faciana married on that gorgeous (albeit rainy) fall day, their stories are different as can be.

Chuck, a desktop support technician, and Beth, administrative assistant for Administration and Finance, first met at an open mic night at Western Campus in 2004. Though their paths crossed several times over the next few years, it wasn't until 2011 that the timing was right for romance to bloom.

"We are lucky to have reconnected," Chuck said. "After that first, brief meeting, I never forgot about her."

Beth said, "We feel like this was definitely meant to be."

Stephanie, Tri-C's government and community affairs liaison, and Chris, wellness coordinator and program manager for Sport and Exercise Studies, met in 2011 while working at District Administrative Offices. They

struck up a friendship, often chatting about their weekend plans and things that were going on in their lives.

"At the Christmas party in 2012, I asked Stephanie if she would ever consider dating a co-worker," Chris said. "She didn't think it was a good idea at first, but she eventually came around."

Beth and Chuck were married at the German Central Foundation in Parma.

"We wanted our wedding to have a nostalgic, Old World feel," Beth said.

An accordion player serenaded guests as they dined on chicken paprikash and cabbage rolls. Later, the crowd took to the dance floor for the Chicken Dance and the Hokey Pokey.

Chris and Stephanie went the more modern route, choosing the elegant La Malfa in Mentor as the backdrop for their celebration. Their grand entrance, per Chris' request, was WWE-themed.

"I wanted our guests to be able to see both our influences in the reception," Stephanie said. "Chris and the groomsmen were so excited about coming in to these wrestling-themed

songs that I didn't have the heart to veto it."

The Ciesliks took a "mini-moon" in Niagara Falls, Ontario, immediately following the wedding. The highlight of the trip was zipping around Niagara-on-the-Lake on rented electric scooters, followed by a self-guided winery tour. They are planning a cross-country road trip this fall.

The Facianas spent a week in Sanibel Island, Fla., during which they went kayaking in the Gulf of Mexico and visited the world-famous Bubble Room.

Chuck and Beth live in Brooklyn with their two cats and enjoy reading and trying new restaurants. They have a shared passion for music; Chuck plays several instruments, and Beth has been a DJ on Cleveland State University's radio station (WCSB) for more than 10 years.

Chris and Stephanie live in Broadview Heights, where they indulge their shared interests in cooking and true crime TV. They keep fit through outdoor activities such as walking and hiking and enjoy taking camping trips together.



Where  
futures  
begin<sup>SM</sup>

**Cuyahoga Community College congratulates our  
John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award winners:**

**Carilynn Bouie**

Assistant Professor  
Mathematics

**C. Jean Mosley Hall**

Associate Professor  
American Sign Language

**George Kanieski**

Assistant Professor  
English

**Theodore DeCarlo**

Adjunct Professor  
Interior Design

**Erika Jefferson**

Adjunct Professor  
Political Science

**Angela Mastronardi-Kuk**

Adjunct Professor  
Biology

**Jaclyn Saggio**

Adjunct Professor  
Early Childhood Education

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# Saint Luke's Foundation — LONG-TERM PARTNER IN HEALTH CARE EDUCATION



The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation appreciates the support of generous donors within our community, ranging from individuals to corporations and foundations. The value in supporting the Foundation is in the partnerships and collaborations developed to enhance our community through creative solutions to challenges. The results of these partnerships are often evidenced through long-time supporters. One such donor is the Saint Luke's Foundation.

A private hospital conversion foundation located in Cleveland, the Saint Luke's Foundation is dedicated to improving and transforming the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. The Saint Luke's Foundation is focused on building sustainable solutions that impact Greater Cleveland.

Since 2001, the Saint Luke's Foundation has partnered with Cuyahoga Community College and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation to advance health care in the region, focusing on increasing the number of skilled practitioners in the community and supporting the College's community-based health assessments, screenings and preventive dental care for the underserved. Tri-C provides these services to the community as part of students' training in medical and dental fields.

Addressing the shortage of nurses in the area, the Saint Luke's Foundation has enabled the education of qualified students wishing to join the profession by supporting scholarships in nursing and health career fields at Tri-C. Throughout the years, this support has provided scholarships to more than 400 students, providing the financial



"With the Saint Luke's Foundation scholarship, I am one step closer to achieving my goals. I strive to help others and cannot imagine a better way to do so than nursing. Eventually I plan on earning both a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing. Your generosity has made the completion of my schooling easier to attain. Thank you for investing in my future."

— Angelique Radolec, Saint Luke's Foundation Scholarship recipient

assistance many need to complete their educations and join the workforce in the region's hospitals, skilled nursing and other health care facilities.

"The mission of the Saint Luke's Foundation aligns very closely with Cuyahoga Community College," said Tri-C President Alex Johnson. "We are the largest provider of health care education in Northeast Ohio, working closely with all of the health care providers in our region to produce graduates who are serving our community and our region with world-class care. Both of our organizations are committed to serving our community and improving the health care services patients receive."

Recently, the Saint Luke's Foundation partnered with Tri-C for a new project focused on preparing skilled practitioners to advance the home health model of care. The project aims to support the home health model through scholarship support for students in medical assisting and registered nursing programs at Tri-C.

The home health model is an innovative, "whole-person" approach whereby all professionals involved in an individual's clinical and non-clinical care communicate with each other so that the patient's medical, social service

and behavioral needs are addressed in an all-inclusive manner.

"Cuyahoga Community College is answering the call for Northeast Ohio's health care industry by providing state-of-the-art, specialized education for nursing and related health careers professionals," said Anne C. Goodman, president and CEO of Saint Luke's Foundation. "By providing highly skilled graduates with the requisite knowledge to meet the needs of the industry, the College has established itself as a leader in health care education.

"This addresses one of our funding priorities — healthy people to train and supply a culturally competent health care workforce, central to an effective, patient-centered health care delivery system. That is why the Saint Luke's Foundation is pleased to partner with the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation to help transform and improve the health and well-being of Greater Cleveland and our entire region."

As a result of the support of the Saint Luke's Foundation, Cuyahoga Community College is producing more highly skilled nurses and allied health professionals ready to deliver top-quality care to patients in clinical and hospital situations.

## *Cuyahoga Community College Foundation* **BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS**

**T**he Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Board of Directors includes more than 50 business and community leaders committed to providing quality education and enhancing access to education for members of our community. The directors are actively engaged in promoting the Foundation and the College within their organizations and communities, serving as advocates for the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, Tri-C and the students they serve. As engaged participants and supporters, directors share a passion for enabling student success.

Recently, the Tri-C Foundation welcomed two new directors. Mylayna Albright is vice president of External Affairs for AT&T Ohio. She holds a juris doctorate and both a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts from Ohio State University in journalism.

Susan Fuehrer is the Medical Center director at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center (VAMC) and has served as the associate director of the VAMC. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in Healthcare Administration and obtained her Master of Business Administration degree from Case Western Reserve University.

Departing Director Rob Reynolds was recognized for his service from 2003-2014. He served on the Executive Committee from 2006-2012, served as co-chairperson of the Development Committee from 2006-2012 and as a member of the Development Committee from 2003-2014. Reynolds has been an avid supporter of Tri-C and, along with AT&T Ohio, has



supported Tri-C student scholarships, veterans, Hispanic student scholarships, the Tri-C Foundation's June and special events, and has been a major sponsor of the annual Presidential Scholarship Luncheon since its inception.

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation was chartered in 1973 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its mission is to secure funding opportunities for scholarships and educational program development and enhancement for Cuyahoga Community College.

## **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** *Funds Adult Diploma Project*

**T**he Ohio Department of Education has awarded a \$450,000 Adult Diploma Project Planning Grant to Cuyahoga Community College. This grant will assist adults in obtaining their high school diploma and an industry credential or certificate. The pilot project will build the College's capacity to provide services and training to this unique population so that individuals can successfully enter a meaningful career in Ohio.

The Adult Diploma Program provides a critically needed option for adults who did not earn a high school diploma

to gain credentials and essential skills to secure in-demand occupations. It is targeted to Ohio's 1.1 million citizens 22 years of age and older who have dropped out of high school.

State data shows that Ohio adults without a high school diploma are twice as likely to live in poverty as those with a diploma. In Ohio, especially, data shows that high school level career-technical education programs are effective in preparing students for success in college and careers.

"Cuyahoga Community College

is pleased to be a partner in this important initiative and is using the planning period to build an infrastructure to conduct outreach and build its capacity to implement a program that will support student success and meet the workforce demands of our region. The program will enable us to determine who can be best served by this opportunity, develop resources and instructional methods unique for this population and establish and enhance employer partnerships," said Alex Johnson, president, Cuyahoga Community College.

# THE CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI INITIATIVE *wants to hear from you!*



**M**any Tri-C graduates have already completed the alumni survey, *Where Are You Now?*, which can be found on the alumni website at [www.tri-c.edu/alumni](http://www.tri-c.edu/alumni). The feedback is helpful in knowing not only what Tri-C alumni have done since graduating and what they are doing in their careers, but also in identifying what alumni relations can do to further engage the College's graduates.

One of the questions that a number of graduates raised in their responses was whether or not they could, as Tri-C alumni, access the Career Center on each of the campuses. The answer is yes. The College's Career Center, in partnership with KeyBank, provides services to support and prepare students, alumni and community members for a successful job search through workshops and individual career coaching. This and many other topics are being addressed in Tri-C's monthly e-newsletter for alumni.

Alumni have also asked about the many opportunities to attend shows, concerts and productions presented by Creative Arts, as well as athletic competitions and events. Information about these events can be found in the alumni e-newsletter too, along with special discount offers, alumni profiles and news about what is happening at Tri-C's campuses. If you graduated from Tri-C and are not receiving the e-news, contact alumni relations at [alumnirelations@tri-c.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@tri-c.edu).

The focus of alumni relations in these efforts is to respond to

Where are **YOU** now?

- Amber Colbert, Nursing
- Jason Medrano, Visual Communication & Design
- Sara Hartley, Nursing
- Edwin R. Sanchez, Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Deena Marano, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Michael McMillon, Associate of Arts

Did **YOU** know...

- Tri-C serves more than **60,000 students** in more than 140 certificate and degree programs each year.
- Tri-C ranks 8th among all two-year colleges in the nation, and **No. 1 in Ohio**, in awarding associate degrees in nursing.
- For the sixth consecutive year, *GI Jobs Magazine* has named Tri-C a **"Military Friendly School."**

what alumni indicate they need and to further engage them in the varied activities that are available to graduates. Your input allows the College to be responsive, so if you haven't completed the alumni

survey, please take a few minutes and do so. If you're not sure that alumni relations has your current contact information, please update it at [alumnirelations@tri-c.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@tri-c.edu) or by visiting [www.tri-c.edu/alumni](http://www.tri-c.edu/alumni).

## Alum Camila Negret FOUND HER DREAM JOB WITH THE HELP OF TRI-C

**W**hen Camila Negret moved to Cleveland from Colombia, South America, she was 16. Musically inclined, she and her mother started a band and performed in venues around Cleveland to help pay the bills. It didn't take long for Negret to realize that music was a passion and a career she could envision for her future.

Inspired by the opportunities in the Recording Arts and Technology (RAT) program, Negret enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College. She excelled academically and earned a spot on the dean's list and in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society — an organization that recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students. At the same time, something happened that changed the course of her life.

"While I was enrolled at Tri-C, the College's transfer program inspired me to continue my education. I decided to transfer after graduating in 2007 and pursue a bachelor's degree in business at John Carroll University," Negret said.

That launched her down a whole different path that eventually landed Negret at PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP), where she started as an intern in 2009 and has now been promoted to HR talent manager, focusing on supporting the career development of PwC consultants and executing the firm's talent management strategy. Early in her career at PwC, she was a traveling IT consultant where she became a certified supply chain professional (CSCP) and a certified information

"This is really a dream job for me... and Tri-C helped me get here."



Camila Negret

systems auditor (CISA). As part of her career at PwC, Negret has traveled extensively and has gained a broader perspective on business and cultures around the world.

"PwC is the world's largest professional services firm and the second largest of the 'Big Four' accountancy firms. This really is a dream job for me ... and Tri-C helped me get here. I never dreamed I would end up where I am today, and it's a great position to be in," Negret said.

In her spare time, Negret is still involved in the music industry, performing with her mom across Northeast Ohio, mentoring her younger brother's band in recording an album and occasionally

participating as a studio singer through connections she maintains with her Tri-C professors from the RAT program.

When it comes to the importance of supporting student scholarships at Tri-C, Negret is a firm believer.

"I was blessed to receive a Tri-C Foundation scholarship and it started me on my journey of learning to give back. Helping students to achieve their dreams of completing a college education is so very important and pays dividends to the whole region. Cuyahoga Community College has the ability to transform a person, and in doing so, transform an entire community."

# TRI-C CAMPS *Make Summer Fun and Informative*

**C**uyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) summer camps for children and teenagers are the perfect fit for talented, smart and enthusiastic youth who are eager to learn about a wide variety of topics. Offerings are available for ages 4 and older and include science, film, photography, sports, leadership, performing arts and more.

Many parents wonder what makes Tri-C summer camps different. “Tri-C summer camps for kids are fun, educational and affordable,” said Terry Robinson, executive director of Tri-C’s Continuing and Community Education program. “Tri-C provides a safe environment for children to master their creativity, learn new skills and gain valuable experience from professionals in the field.” Instructors for the camps include professional musicians, scientists, police officers, movie directors and other experts.

Another advantage is access to the College’s advanced technology. In the Tech Kids camp (grades 3-6), campers learn about game design and digital art and animation. “Our Young Filmmakers and Photography Studio camps,” Robinson said, “allow students to explore all aspects of movie making. It’s one of the only camps in the area to offer kids in grades 5 through 8 this opportunity.”

New for 2015 is Tri-C’s partnership with the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, which leverages the exhibits and programs of the science center with Tri-C’s labs and technology to

**Summer Camps for Grades 1 and up**  
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Cuyahoga Community College

provide unique learning opportunities through experience and play. For example, Space Camp (grades 3-6) allows campers the chance to run the center’s new planetarium projector with a game controller. During the Wild World camp (grades 3-6), kids will

get the chance to explore the grounds around the center, collecting water samples from Lake Erie and learning about nature and our environment.

For more information, visit [tri-c.edu/summercamps](http://tri-c.edu/summercamps) or call 216-987-3075 to register.

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## Tri-C Veteran of the Year ANDRE DOWDY

**C**uyahoga Community College's Veteran of the Year, graduate Andre Dowdy, was honored at the city of Cleveland's Veterans Day ceremony at city hall in November.

Dowdy, 55, spent 11 years in the U.S. Army and continued his service after being discharged. Today he is a quality assurance assistant at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland's University Circle, and he loves his job.

Asked how he felt about being named Tri-C's Veteran of the Year, he said, "The more exposure I get, the more I can help veterans."

The Cleveland resident is serious about helping those who served.

Before moving to the Stokes center, he worked as a medical support assistant at the McCafferty Community Outpatient Center on Cleveland's west side and helped homeless veterans find shelter and financial assistance. He once took a veteran to the hospital

only to discover the man had a brain tumor. Dowdy may have saved his life.

"They say you can't pick your family, but I did," he said of his fellow veterans.

Dowdy joined the U.S. Army in 1977. "My mother told me I had to find something to do," he said. "So a friend and I were out and we walked by a recruitment center. I said, 'That's what I am going to do.'"

He enlisted that day.

Dowdy initially was part of the Army's field artillery branch. He has traveled to Germany, Korea, Egypt, Holland and more.

"I spent three years out in the woods, and it was cold out there," he said. So he moved over to computers and finished his military career in "intelligence." He attained the rank of sergeant.

Being in the military instilled in him a sense of discipline and confidence. Still, he was not sure what to do when he was discharged.

He and his wife, Linette, moved from Baltimore to Cleveland, Linette's hometown, in 1991. Dowdy took jobs at the Department of Finance and Accounting Services, Williams Lee (an international corporate information solutions company) and BP in America, but nothing was clicking.

Linette encouraged him to look into the Veterans Upward Bound program at Tri-C. He said he would never have gone to college had it not been for VUB, which guided him through the whole process and even helped him find his job at the VA.

Dowdy earned a national Veterans Upward Bound Scholarship in 2012. He earned his associate degree in liberal arts at Tri-C and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work.

"I never would have went to college," Dowdy said. "But once I got going, I realized this is not that bad. I started liking class. Life has been good since."

# Meet Me @ Tri-C:

## Derick Mayes

**D**erick Mayes once wanted to work as a reporter, but an internship at the Greater Cleveland Film Commission changed all that.

Today, he wants to work in the film industry. He has already worked on films like “Draft Day,” “The Kings of Summer” and “A Murder in the Park.” He graduated from the Ohio Center for Broadcasting in 2008 and also earned a \$10,000 scholarship to the New York Film Academy. He enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College in fall 2012.

**TRI-C TIMES:** What changed you from wanting to be a reporter to wanting to work in film?

**DERICK MAYES:** I found something within myself while acting that gives me more inner happiness and comes naturally for me. This I can say prompted the transition from a career in television broadcasting news to working on set in a film.

**TCT:** What would you like to do in the film industry?

**DM:** The ultimate goal would be to have the chance to produce and direct my own film after working as a professional actor.

**TCT:** You had the chance to work on “Draft Day.” What did you do?

**DM:** Ivan Reitman (director of “Ghostbusters”) chose me to play a Seattle Seahawks recruiter. My role in the scene was to find out the talent we were going to get in the upcoming draft and talk to other recruiters after the trade with the Cleveland Browns general manager, played by Kevin Costner.

**TCT:** How did you learn about Tri-C and why did you choose to enroll?



**DM:** I learned about Tri-C while interning at the Greater Cleveland Film Commission, which held a colloquium on the College’s Media Arts program.

In addition to interning at the film commission, I got married and started working a regular call center job, which I felt was off course. I thought the Media Arts program could help me pursue a career in television news.

The original plan is to have an Associate of Arts that is transferable to a four-year university. This would allow

me to concentrate on a bachelor’s in my field, broadcasting. I would still love to do broadcasting later in life.

**TCT:** What do you see as your biggest challenge to succeeding in film, and how will you overcome it?

**DM:** Relocating.

*To keep up with Tri-C students and graduates, check out Meet Me @ Tri-C, a periodic feature on the Tri-C Trending blog at [tri-c.edu/trictrending](http://tri-c.edu/trictrending).*

# #mytricastory

## What is your biggest struggle?

“I need to talk louder, and I need to project my voice more. I’m trying to come out of my shell ... People judge me and limit me. They want me to stay the same. At the same time, they want me to speak up more and be more independent.”

— Susan, Theatre, Western Campus  
#mytricastory



## What do you plan to do with your degree?

“The fashion line I’ll be doing is called Sinar/Dutton. Sinar is the ladies’ line, and Dutton is for the gents. I want it to be a line that is timeless and covers everything – urban fashion for the younger generation. I just need to get a team behind it so I can build it.”

— Dinari, Business, Eastern Campus #mytricastory



## What are you tutoring him in?

“Pre-req biology, so biology for students that are not biology majors. It’s challenging to get students engaged when it isn’t their major, but Jake is really engaged.”

— Lonny Gatlin, Biology Professor,  
Westshore Campus #mytricastory

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

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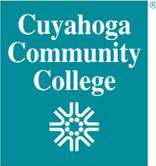
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