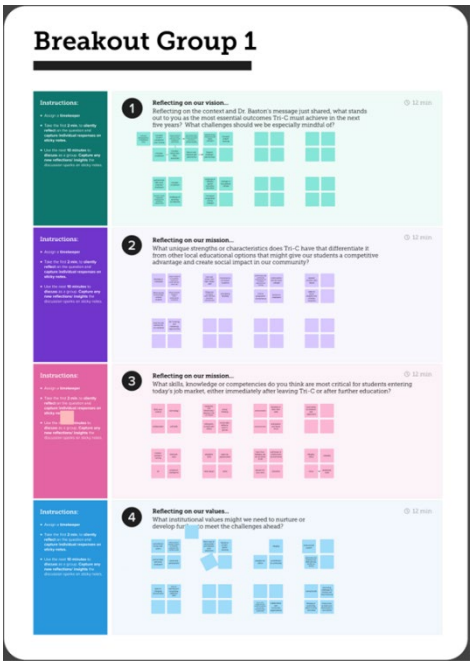
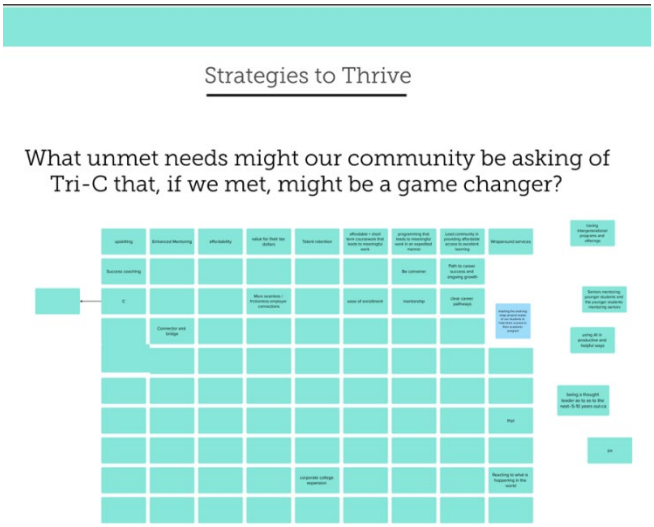
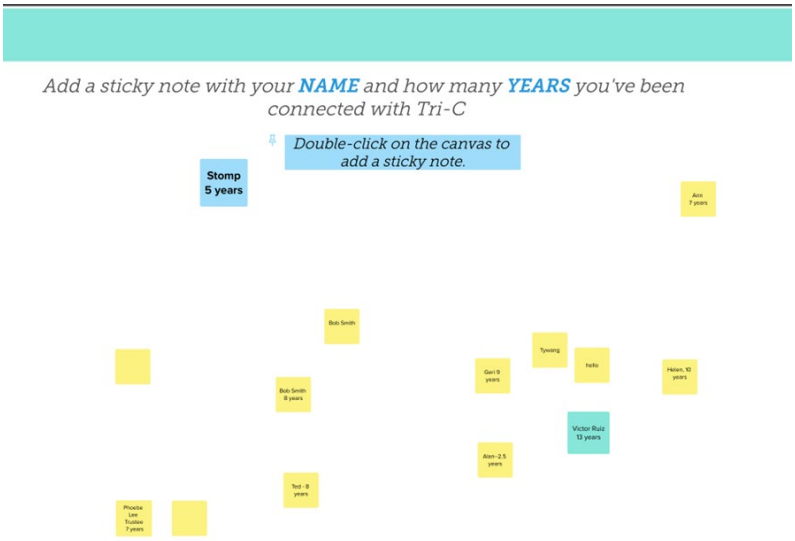
Listening Session Summary
Tri-C Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 4, 2025







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Question 1

Reflecting on our Vision: Reflecting on the context and Dr. Baston's message just shared, what stands out to you as the most essential outcomes Tri-C must achieve in the next five years? What challenges should we be especially mindful of?

Summary

Tri-C must focus on providing visionary and strong leadership, maintaining a strong financial position, offering 24-7 tutoring and mentoring opportunities, and meeting students where they are.

The institution should leverage partnerships with community organizations, offer skill-based applied courses, maintain the lowest tuition in the state, and provide innovative programming. Public financial support, workforce and career solutions, value for cost, and flexibility in scheduling are crucial.

Tri-C should utilize the Corporate College for career enhancement credentials, blend degree and certificate programs, and respond to employer needs. The leadership and faculty should be dynamic and visionary, ensuring that 86% of graduates stay in the region.

Tri-C must be nimble, geographically reach more students, and act as a bridge within the NE Ohio economic infrastructure, focusing on cost and geographic convenience, while being responsive to community needs.

Responses

Bachelor's Degree Expansion
4-5 4-year degrees
bachelor's degrees
Get approval for 5 new bachelor's degrees
Business Community Engagement
collaboration with business community
Expand employer partnerships
partnerships with more potential employers
Remain a conduit for collaboration in the city
Capacity Building Strategies
better utilization of space
building capacity
free up financial resources from excess capacity
Demographic Challenges in NEO
Challenge: declining regional population
Challenge:NEO demographics / shrinking population
reduced demographics in Northeast Ohio
Diversified Program Offerings
Challenge: Automation & dramatically shifting / shrinking job market
enlarge certificate and curriculum offerings to match employment opportunities.

increase number of potential vocational and workforce opportunities
Serve students where they're at with multiple programs and multiple credentials for students of all ages and career aspirations

Economic Development Leadership

Outcome: leader in economic development and population growth for NEO
Outcome:Financial health and sustainability

Enhanced Graduate Employability

expand geographic reach
increase hiring from TRI-C graduates
possibly expand into adjacent counties

Innovative Job Placement Strategies

Assure and measure job placements
deep partnerships with employer groups
Equitable opportunities
job creation
Outcome: Leader in job placement and careers in NEO
Outcome: Muti county institution
Outcome: unique, impactful employment agency
Research Jobs that have not been created yet
Students getting meaningful employment aligned with their area of study
Track graduates job successes post graduation

Instructor Recruitment and Levy Passage

Challenges: Putting in place the instructors that can work with the modern student
Passing the levy

Navigating Higher Education Challenges

challenge of attitudes against secondary education
challenge of declining enrollemtns
Challenges: Community College / Higher education stigmas
political forces interfering with higher education

Other

changes in the political climate
mental health
Passing HLC re-assessment
reappointment for Phoebe ðŸ˜,
Share Tri-c's value proposition

Strategic Enrollment Growth

Increase enrollment
Increase graduation rates
Increase project learning
Increase student enrollment over 5 years
increased competition among colleges
Outcome: Growth in enrollment every year

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Question 2

Reflecting on our Mission: What unique strengths or characteristics does Tri-C have that differentiate it from other local educational options that might give our students a competitive advantage and create social impact in our community?

Summary

The Tri-C Board of Trustees emphasizes the importance of providing low-cost tuition, high-caliber staff, convenient campus locations, and strong leadership. They highlight the need for comprehensive social services, partnerships with community organizations, and strong connections with local high schools.

They stress the value of skill-based applied courses, innovative programming, and public financial support. Tri-C offers extensive tutoring and mentoring, flexible scheduling, and programs that blend degree and certificate options, catering to the evolving needs of the workforce and community.

The institution is dedicated to workforce solutions, career enhancement credentials, and maintaining a strong financial position.

Responses

Affordable Programs and Regional Impact
86% of our graduates stay in region
ability to blend degree and certificate programs
affordable
Corporate College and Entrepreneurship school
lowest tuition in the state
Value / Cost
Enhanced Student Support Services
24-7 tutoring and mentoring opportunities
Ability to meet students where they are
automatic enrollment of CMSD students
convenience of campus locations
Direct access to local high school students
low-cost tuition with high caliber staff
matriculation into four-year colleges
multiple campuses
unique needs of our students--need more social services -tuition low
wrap-around services for our students
Flexibility and Convenience
Cost & geographic convenience
flexibility in schedules
scale / geographic reach
scheduling flexibility

Innovative Programming
innovative programming
nimble
Visionary Leadership and Financial Stability
board of directors
Dave Kuntz, strong financial position
Dynamic & visionary leader
Executive leadership & faculty
outstanding leadership and vision
strong financial position
Strong leadership
visionary leadership
visionary President
Workforce Development Programs
a proven player in workforce / career solutions
Access to employers
Applied courses--skill based
Bridge and connector within NE Ohio economic infrastructure
CCC has been focused on workforce and is well positioned for the changing needs of our community, unlike 4 years.
more responsive to employer needs
partnerships with community organizations for increased alignment and synergy
public financial support
the way we can partner
Utilize corporate college for career enhancement credentials
Variety of workforce offerings

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Question 3

Reflecting on our Mission: What skills, knowledge or competencies do you think are most critical for students entering today's job market, either immediately after leaving Tri-C or after further education?

Summary

Tri-C offers flexibility in schedules, low tuition costs, and high-quality staff. The convenience of multiple campus locations and partnerships with local high schools and community organizations enhances student support.

They provide wrap-around services, 24/7 tutoring and mentoring, and innovative programming. Tri-C's strong leadership and financial position, along with public financial support, ensure their ability to meet student needs and align with workforce demands.

They offer applied, skill-based courses, career enhancement credentials, and a variety of workforce offerings, making them a valuable bridge within the NE Ohio economic infrastructure.

Responses

Critical Thinking Skills
analytical skills
creative problem-solving
critical thinking
Entrepreneurial Skills
anticipation and future focus
commitment to continuous learning
Entrepreneurial
entrepreneurship
learn from mistakes--do not be afraid to fail
passion for your work
Real world work experience
seek out opportunities
self-starter in unstructured environments
strong work ethic
working in an urban environment
Lifelong Learning and Adaptability
Adaptability / nimbleness
commitment to lifelong learning
faculty connectivity with real time experiences
Resiliency
Self awareness
Personal Development and Emotional Intelligence
emotional intelligence

empathy
integrity, ethics
Skills and Traits for Success
discipline
financial acumen
flexibility to learn new skills
Intellectual curiosity
need ability to measure skill attainment
Soft Skills and Communication
communication
Communication (written and verbal)
communication skills
focus
Interpersonal Skills
leadership skills
people skills
Skills over content
social skills--ability to work in groups
soft skills
technical skills
Team Leadership and Collaboration
ability to collaborate
collaboration
leadership and followership--playing a role on a team
team player
willingness to work with others
Tech and AI Proficiency
AI
AI
Tech & AI fluency
Tech savvy (cloud working, AI, etc.)
technology
vision

Question 4

Reflecting on our Values: What institutional values might Tri-C need to nurture or develop further to meet the challenges ahead?

Summary

Tri-C should nurture community participation, partnerships with local employers, and a commitment to community. Emphasizing people-centric thinking, institutional and community organization collaboration, and bringing in community talent for new ideas is essential.

Creative, market-led program creation and expanding teaching methods through collaboration with SMEs, along with fostering a collaborative mindset both internally and externally, are crucial values to develop.

Responses

Adaptability and Innovation
Embrace change
flexibility
innovation
Innovation
open to changing environment
Community Engagement and Collaboration
Bringing in community talent to bring new ideas
collaboration with community organizations
Collaborative mindset (internal and external)
commitment to community
community participation
creative program creation-market led
Expand the way that we teach- collaborating with SMEs
Institutional collaboration
partnerships with local employers
people centric thinking
Education Excellence and Support
academic excellence
Career focused
caring faculty
Challenging faculty & students to think big
commitment to low-cost tuition
Empowering students to strive for excellence
financial aid to make sure that poverty is not a barrier
focus on the college brand to attract the students we can most educate and give opportunities
generosity and kindness--the $100 gifts that faculty can bestow
Students taking multiple disciplines vs one program

Other
civic pride
eliminating challenges of housing and food insecurity
wrap around support
Skills Development and Innovation
hands on project-based learning
love of learning and developing additional skills
Need ways to demonstrate and measure skills attainment
reduce barriers between degree & certificate programs with transition paths
Revise Sabbatical Programs
Upskill alums
Upskill staffs
Utilize subject matter experts outside the academy
Values and Inclusivity
diversity
empathy for others
integrity

Strategies to Thrive

What unmet needs might our community be asking of Tri-C that, if we met, might be a game changer?

Summary

The community is seeking increased participation, partnerships with local employers, and a commitment to community-focused and people-centric approaches. There is a need for institutional collaboration, engagement with community organizations, and leveraging local talent for innovative ideas.

Creative, market-led programs and expanded teaching methods in collaboration with SMEs are also desired, alongside fostering a collaborative mindset both internally and externally.

Responses

Career Development
Path to career success and ongoing growth
Reacting to what is happening in the world
Community Engagement and Value
Be convener
More seamless / frictionless employer connections
value for their tax dollars
Education Support
meeting the evolving wrap around needs of our students to help them succeed in their academic program
Wraparound services
Empowering Learning Community
affordability
affordable + short term coursework that leads to meaningful work
clear career pathways
corporate college expansion
ease of enrollment
Lead community in providing affordable access to excellent learning
programming that leads to meaningful work in an expedited manner
using AI in productive and helpful ways
Other
Connector and bridge
having intergenerational programs and offerings
Skills Development and Mentorship
being a thought leader as to as to the next--5-10 years out-ca
Enhanced Mentoring
mentorship
Seniors mentoring younger students and the younger students mentoring seniors
Success coaching

Talent retention
upskilling