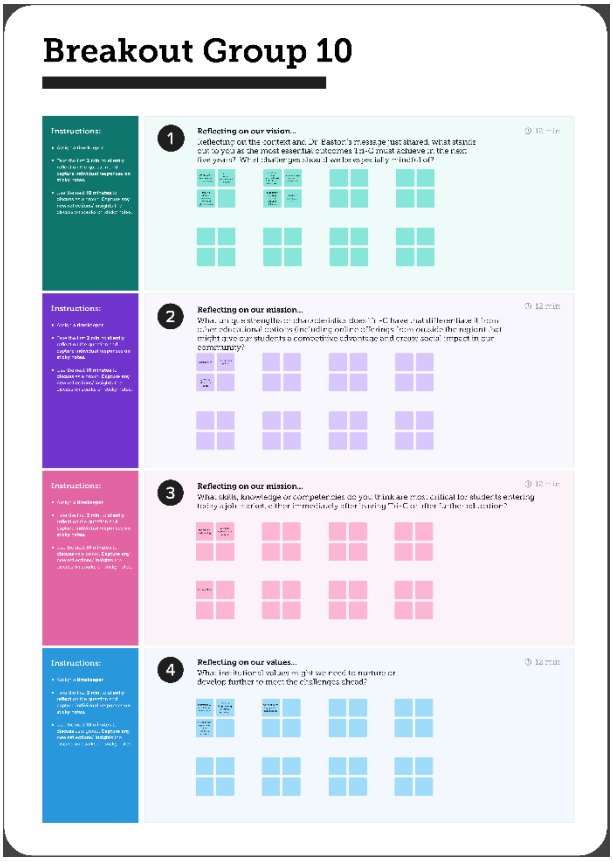
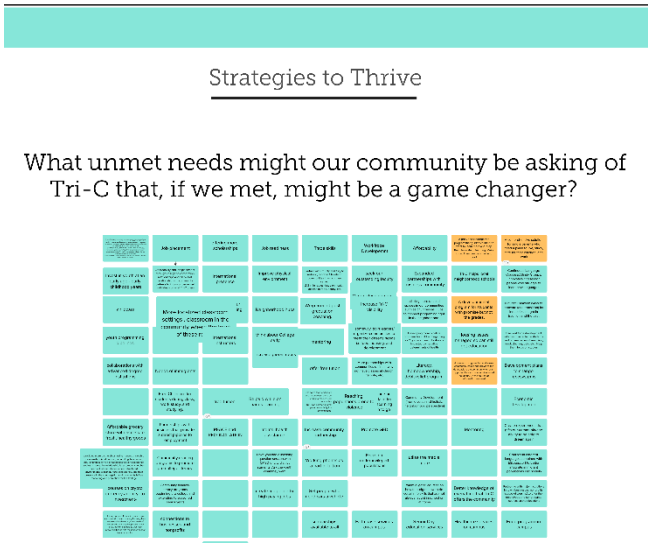
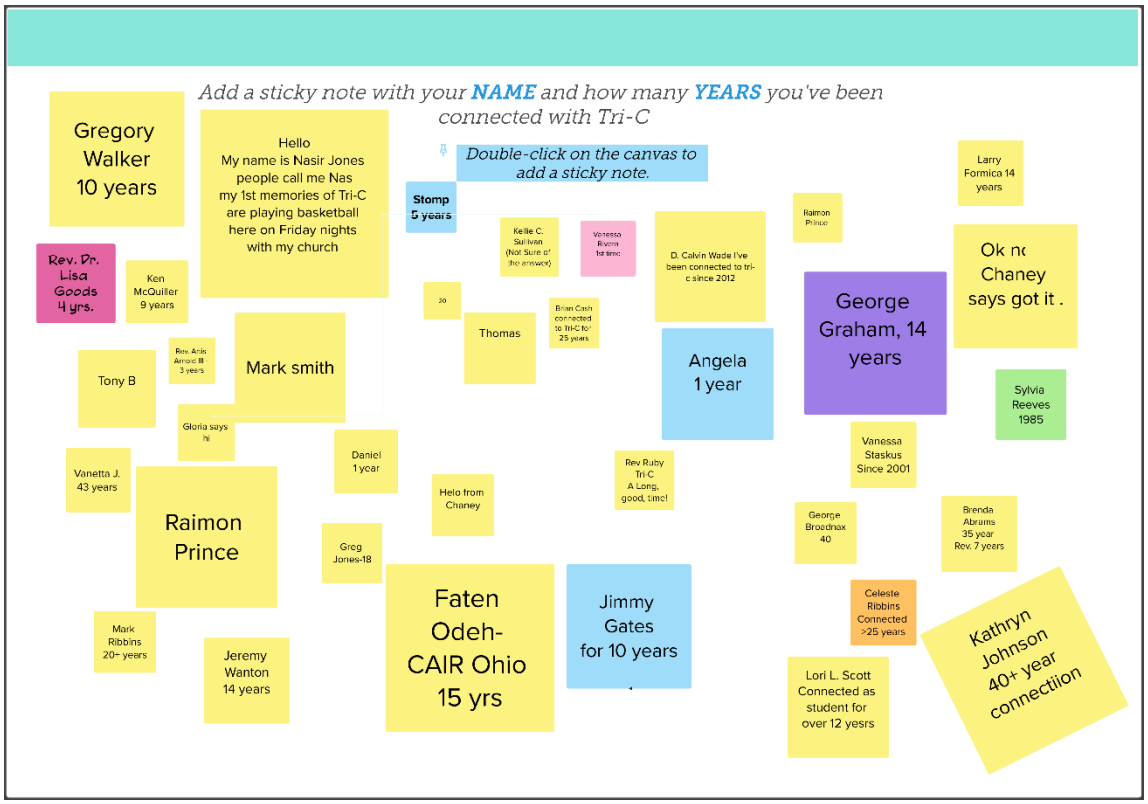
Listening Session Summary
Interfaith Community Partners
Wednesday, April 2, 2025







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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 targeted marketing, drug education, and addressing community pipeline connections while being adaptable to governmental regulations.

Essential outcomes include enhancing the relevancy of education for growing demographics, finding innovative ways to attract students, and ensuring classes are beneficial.

The institution should prioritize skill development over employment, expand business concentrations, and offer more than associate degrees. It is crucial to stay adaptable to changing family dynamics, provide childcare centers, and address the needs of millennials.

The challenge lies in maintaining the course while adjusting to changes, and finding a clear vision to move forward despite uncertainty.

Responses

Community Engagement

Another basic level idea is transportation. I try to encourage parents to get their students enrolled in early college, one of the biggest challenges is transportation. They want the students to participate but can't think through the transportation issues.

Be a nimble enough as organization/community partnership to deal with governmental regulations that may interfere with the goals.

blind spots that speak to issue of community pipeline connection.

Communicate with the community how Tri-C is addressing challenges.

Create regular paths of community connection for input and feedback

Engage the communities we serve through partnerships.

Increase public knowledge of everything that Tri-C has to offer for the community

more public meetings in communities

Partner with the maternity wards, meet your future students before they are even born, partner with the parents and start talking about the future!

Recruit and involve parents more.

Use spaces outside of Tri-C to engage in educating more students.

what can we do to stand against this injustice as a public school

While its great to bring the community to the college, take the college to the community

Cost of Education

cost of education

Cost. Tri-C offers a great education that is affordable

Making it more affordable for millennials

The outcome Tri-c must achieve is making sure to inform inner city millennials of the cost and availability of Tri C cost is the biggest hindrances for students due to the fact the student isn't guaranteed a good paying job.the

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Curriculum Innovation

Getting more entrepreneurs enrolled.
Manage the challenges with AI, maybe altering curriculum
Manage the enrollment cliff with innovative curriculum
What I believe will be most helpful for Tri-C over the next five years is to think of ways to partner with CMSD in the lower grades. I think there should be a direct pathway to college that parents and students know of from kindergarten on up. There should be dedicated faculty and even internships created to work on improving reading, math, and science skills from day one.

Education Advocacy

advocating for compulsory higher education- at lease free community college like the state of Tennessee
Clearly articulate the message of the trajectory of the county
Communicate to millennials will work for them
Determine how to address the blind spots of injustice in this current political climate?
Determine what are the needs of the current culture. Most young people are looking to be entrepreneurs.
More practical experiences
preserving the sanctity of education and thought in the current political climate of censure
support for working parents including childcare
The challenge of of education given the defunding of Dept of Ed
The need for a clear vision given the changes in education
The people need to step in. Access volunteers.
visioning, listening to the students, young old etc. Proactive
What education looks like in a city with a large black & brown population given Ohio HB1

Education Strategies

Are the classes beneficial?
Do it at your own pace
enlarge concentrations in business
Finding new innovative ways of attracting students
Focusing on education relevancy to current growing demographics
Make Tri C work for millennials
marketing and communicating the fine educational services offered. starting in NE Ohio schools
Monitoring the changing dynamics of family dynamics and adjusting to the needs to inspire continued education.
Need the skills more than the employment
offer more than just associates

Higher Education Accessibility

Being creative in making education as affordable and accessible as possible
How to increase enrollment given the demographic challenges and eroding public support
Understand some of the social Determinants and how it's impacting potential students ability to seek higher education

Innovative Marketing

targeted marketing

Other

childcare centers on site
Home / External Environmental Factors
Stay the course, but tweak to address changes.

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What stands for me in his mission is that we are wanting to move ahead in the future, plans and dreams but we are lack of a vision of how to get there and we trend to survive, improvise or have no knowledge of how to accomplish.

Social Issues

drug education

Student Resources and Support

Assuring job placement upon graduation from program

Better counseling services for 1 stop shop

creating student resources that meet global needs

Tri-C can also invest more in summer camp programs specifically for children with reading and math challenges. Teaching reading and math should be fundamental. Tri-C shouldn't wait for the schools to do this, they should be involved from the beginning to ensure that students are ready for college and graduating.

Support for Marginalized Students

apprenticeships for career progression

creating safe spaces for ALL students- especially marginalized (historically) students

Defending the ability to educate without prejudice (Senate Bill 1) Continued partnership with CMSD (pipeline) Work with county and city on attracting industry / jobs Create pathways to monetize their degree (see point #3) Creating a virtuous cycle

I would like to see more opportunities for our Latino community.

Knowing the struggles facing young black men, Tri-C might want to create a program specifically geared to making sure black boys have a pathway to college.

Successful workforce development

Tri-C should be mindful how worried marginalized people are feeling now with the new U.S. Administration. What can Tri-C do to work on keeping these groups of people safe and comfortable in their learning environment. Undocumented people that are willing to educate but because immigration status they can't access education.

Workforce Development

connections to innovation in workforce

Employment salary outcomes post-graduation

Further build the programs 4-year disciplines

Invest in the trades. A vast need everywhere

Programs designed to meet the changing industry trends

workforce sector partnerships & instructor led coursework

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Question 2

Reflecting on our Mission: What unique strengths or characteristics does Tri-C have that differentiate it from other educational options (including online offerings from outside the region) that might give our students a competitive advantage and create social impact in our community?

Summary

Tri-C offers affordable and accessible education through various programs, including degrees, certificates, and non-degree options. It provides diverse academic and career-oriented paths, including early college, art programs, and trade skills.

The college fosters strong community partnerships, offers proximity to downtown and multiple campuses, and has responsive and engaged leadership.

Tri-C emphasizes inclusivity, practical experience from instructors, and direct connections to local employers for job placement.

The institution is committed to supporting students with disabilities, promoting cultural and artistic opportunities, and maintaining low tuition costs.

Tri-C's innovative programs and mentoring opportunities from alumni further enhance its appeal.

Responses

Affordability of Education
Affordability
affordability
Affordability is always an advantage.
affordable education due to the many scholarships provided.
Connecting students with job. Employed students can impact community. (Virtuous Cycle) Community involvement and advocacy Side note: Affordability cant be considered a strong point if a student is unemployed afterwards
Cost
Cost
Cost is very big
Free tuition for certain Cle students
Least expensive bachelor’s degree option in the State of Ohio, potentially opening the door for expanded enrollment outside of Greater Cleveland
Low tuition
Art and Cultural Programs
Creativity and proximity to downtown and the arts (innovation)
Cultural and artistic opportunities for students and the community.
Expand programs in the Arts to engage the diversity within the community
Strengths: Affordable Price Early College Art Programs for children, youth, and teens
Campus Locations
Accessible on public transportation

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Locations across the county (East, West, Downtown)
Many different campus options
Multiple campus locations
Multiple CampusesHelpful staffHelp for students with disabilities
multiple locations
Multiple physical locations in the region.

Career Development Programs

Getting paid while doing your course work
Innovative programs for entreprenuers
Instructors have more practical experience to share with students
Key internships
Learning a trade
Non-degree programs that allow students to matriculate quickly and earn
Programs to help people in transition that include GED
variety of edu career paths
Variety of programs for all interests
You can learn all the things you dreamed of but didn't fit with your career aspirations

Community Engagement

4 Paths to move the community strategy
accessible leaders from the school are in the community/touchable and seems to have their ears to the ground
Being responsive to changing realities (such as by organizing listening sessions like this)
culturally accepting
Executive Administration with heart for community
Family ties (1.2 million people impacted)
Input and connection to the various sectors of our community
It is in Downtown Cleveland, great location
Legacy of responsiveness to the community
Local, community based
Open Door policy for all students and staff
Partnership with the community
Partnerships with local school districts
Support of the faith community
Tri C is in the heart of the community providing educational oxygen to those who have a desire to seek it.
visibility in the community
Well embraced by the community

Degree vs. Certification

Certifications
The timeline that is required to get a degree verses the timeline to get a certificate that in many instances yields to quicker money making opportunities

Diversity in Education

demographically mirroring
Diversity in academic options and career-oriented options.
gathering leaders from various backgrounds to listen and ask hard questions. Wants to be pushed outside the box

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Senior class

Education Programs

bachelor degree
Continuing education of (even practical things)
Forward thinking programs like the Recording Arts & Technology program
Online options
Wide range of academic offerings

Educational Accessibility

ability of adults to do to school and take care of their children
Accessibility
accessibility
accessibility for on-line
Continue to keep the cost at the most minimal as the economic impact will allow.
Proximity to the community
Strengths: Accessibility across the region, cost of tuition, access to faculty and admin staff.
The wiliness to make it more affordable and accessible to everyone.
Thinks in all groups and educational level to provide access to better education and work placements.

Institutional Reputation

Brand recognition in Greater Cleveland
Dr. Bastion
Options
Ratio of faculty to class size
The understanding and willingness to get ahead of the curve
Timeline to acquire the necessary

Job Placement Services

Connections to local employers for immediate job placement
Direct connections to employment opportunities

Mentorship and Support

More mentoring opportunities from Alumni for students.

Online and Hybrid Learning

Ability to provide instruction in person, online, and in hybrid formats.
Keep Tri-C's unique perspective on supplying education to all.

Other

Provide excellence without loftiness--people don't feel like Tri-C is beyond their reach

Student Support Services

access to counselors and faculty
easier entry points
Having athletics
Students can meet in person for classes and activities.
the connect program was (if it's no longer offered) a great program to encourage potential students to finish with a BA

Workforce Development

Trade programs and technology
Workforce development program

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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

Students need a comprehensive education encompassing religious studies, multicultural competence, effective communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills.

Programs should include oral and written communication, graphic arts, emotional intelligence, peer mediation, and organizational skills. Practical knowledge in economy, financial management, DEI, and community organizing is essential. Building relationships, understanding diverse cultures, and gaining hands-on experiences through travel are crucial.

Additionally, students should develop technological proficiency, workplace etiquette, and interview skills. Basic skills in reading, writing, math, and science, along with real-world work experience and trade skills, are vital for success.

Emphasis should be on lifelong learning, adaptability, innovation, and maintaining individuality in a homogeneous society.

Responses

Career Readiness and Skills Development
Ability to continue to learn new skills.
Advanced Technological skills to assist with use of AI.
AI machine learning
Be a critical thinker
Be in tune with the issues facing our community
Business management
certifications in high demand fields in healthcare
Computer technology for those who are not so savvy and a space to learn computer skills
Cross-platform software suite skills (Microsoft, Google, etc)
entrepreneurship
Expanding alumni engagement / networking opportunities to connect graduates to one another for job placement and increase ties to alma mater
Financial skills - personal financial management & business finances
Have IT knowledge
How to manage large groups of people
How to market themselves
I know you want to think big, which is great, but students coming from CMSD can't read. Develop a world class reading program, where you can guarantee parents that their kids will read and graduate, they will be invested.
Increase use of technology that they may use at work
Interview preparation
Interview skills

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It is very heartbreaking to me that adults at Church, struggle to read. I often wonder how they have gotten this far in life. They have, Praise God, but how can we help them. If you can read, you can learn.

job knowledge
job readiness training
Know the market
Labor/trades skills are huge
Life skills integration
People management skills
prepare for multiple career paths
professional Development
Real world work experience while in school
Resume building, interview practice, and anything that helps graduates get jobs
resume preparation and electronic presentation
self-employment
Situational management
soft skills
Sometimes going to the basics in training is best: reading, writing, math and science.
Teach them basic economics and soft skills.
Work with parents to help them teach their children to read and to do math.

Communication and Social Skills

Additional languages
Basic public speaking skills
build relationships even with hard people people
Communication skills
Communication skills Expanding their attention spans Building analytical and dynamic thinkers Critical thinking Ability lead processes end to end Management skills Life skills / Etiquette
Conflict management
Connection! Connection! Connection! Know how to relate to others and connect. Know how to build relationships!
Course in communication and interacting skills and how to represent themselves.
Developed Communications skills beyond their phones
Effective Communication: listening and well-rounded engagement
Effective communication skills
emotional intelligence
How to create and manage a business by yourself while building to scale up
Interpersonal communication
Interviewing and presentation skills
learn how to talk and have relationships with others with different views
Listening skills
Oral and written communications
Organizational skills
Peer Mediation
Professional Interview Skills
Social skills

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Social skills
soft skills & networking

Cultural Competence and Community Engagement

Affordability and multiple campuses and diversity of faculty.
Be a change agent for social justice
Community Organizing
DEI
Increase knowledge of different cultures, religions, and peoples they may meet with in the workplace and society (cultural competency)
Maintaining your identity in a society that values homogeneity
making sure students have a understanding of how to operate in a multi-cultural setting
Politics and serving communities ethically
religious studies certification programs for local churches (think Sunday School, youth ministry, trustee training, church administration, conflict resolution, church hr, etc)
Students need to be educated on the economy and financial management with planning on how to navigate the current economy.
Visit other countries for a hands on experience on other ways to create education strategies.

Education and Career Preparation

Connect high school learning requirements to college prep by adding more college courses to high school.
Need to teach students on how to present themselves without technology.
Reaching ALL groups: academics, trades, certification
the trades
workplace etiquette

Leadership and Personal Development

ability to connect with mentors
creative adaptable skills in leadership, problem solving
dream big and challenge each other with hard and uncomfortable questions problem solve remove entitlement that many of the younger generation feels
Leadership: Knowing how to lead people beyond doing tasks

Other

Counter culturalism: How to go against the grain and not lose your mind
graphic arts
Just like today, this program, even though this technology was different, with a little assistance and reading we were all able to navigate it.
know what you're passionate about
Stay on top of your discipline. Stay active
subscriptions to readings (e.g. Wall Street journal)

Reading and Literacy

gaining a love for reading
Reading and Writing well
Reading Reading Comprehension Math
Reading widely

Social and Human Skills

Conflict management

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dress for success
Human Skills
Human Skills and Augmented AI Skills
Social and technological innovation (futurist thinking)
Social skills
soft skills
Technology and Innovation
AI
App/Cpu programming
Coding
program on Cryptocurrency
Technology - the ability to use and adapt to multiple business platforms
Tri-C can help in making technology assessable for families.

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Question 4

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

Summary

The Interfaith Partners' responses emphasize the importance of affordability, community engagement, critical thinking, and a holistic approach to education. It highlights the need for transparency, cultural sensitivity, diversity, and equity.

The focus is on developing strong relationships, adaptability, and continuous improvement in response to shifting workforce trends. It advocates for providing support for non-traditional students, integrating early childhood education, and ensuring accessibility to job markets.

Our partners also call for a commitment to quality education, ethical behavior, and creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

Responses

Access and Affordability
Affordability
affordability
Affordability messaging
high quality but affordable
No child left behind
Accountability and Transparency
accountability
Accountability Adaptability Discipline (stay on mission) Equality Altruism Commitment Freedom (academic)
Integrity/Accountability
standards on commitment
Transparency
Truth
Collaboration and Partnership
approachable
Carry out the mission and strategic plan
Collaboration
Continuing to engage with stakeholders
Develop a public recognition system to acknowledge all contributors.
Mutuality/ Community
New Proactive attitude from an educational standpoint.
Open to new ideas
Partnership with other institutions
Recognize all contributors and partners along the journey.
Strong relationships
Teamwork

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Unlimited thinking

Community Engagement

Commitment to community development & access

Commitment to community education

community

community engagement

Developing funding streams that allow freedom to teach based on community needs and not government mandates.

Family, Faith, Community addressing the issues through prevention

openness to community needs and family values

Opportunities for ALL

Sense of community

We are in your community, east, west and downtown

Core Values and Ethics

Civility -- learning how to agree and disagree with one another while still working together for a common cause

code of ethics

Ethics Organizing

faith values

Hope for the Future

justice what real Justice looks like?

Respect for fellow classmates, instructors, and self

Service

Creativity and Innovation

Creativity

Interdependence

Critical Thinking

Commitment to Engagement

Critical Thinking

Encouraging and teaching critical thinking

If higher education continues to decline, determine what has become the alternative that has caused the decline and finds ways to adapt to the new culture and economy.

Thinking (not overly dependent on AI)

transparency and space for open thinking for all ways of thought

Diversity and Inclusion

cultural sensitivity

Cultural sensitivity at all levels of faculty & staff

DEI

Diversity

Diversity: cultural and viewpoint -- anything that can make graduates better prepared to work with others in the workplace

Equity

in a culture that vilifies concern and diversity, equity, and inclusivity as wokeness be awoke! be vigilant and commit to never choosing the alternative of being asleep

Inclusion

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Respect
Solidarity and tolerance
voice and activism
we need respect for others

Educational Innovation

Develop areas in the trades
Diverse learning modules for unconventional learners

I know its odd to think a college should enter into the space of early childhood education, but who better? You know better than anyone what the end goal is, what you need students to know and understand to be successful in college, start at the beginning. What if there was a program that allowed students to start pre-K on tri-c campus and that follows them all the way through that applied bachelor degree?
innovation & continuous improvement
more unique approaches to education
orientation on technology
What I have learned as a parent is that when children and families that stay in one consistent pathway to learning they do well. If a single mom, knew from day one, we have a day care center for you, we have a pre-k program for you, we have a elementary level program and high school program, all within the same college system, small classes, safe, and my kid is going to learn, I'm fully invested, "from birth to bachelors" All connected, all with one system to follow the children, a program that includes arts and sports. A College that doesn't require me to live in a "good neighborhood" I have 8 grandchildren, and my children are asking the question, where can they go to school that is safe, diverse, and they will learn. Tri-C can provide a completely new model. What if all the levels were connected, the teachers were all paid fairly, the kids were followed and taught. It would be life changing.

Holistic Education

academic excellence
Compassion (esp for the most vulnerable)
Continue Emphasizing a Holistic Approach
empathy
entrepreneurship
That Education is the great equalizer

Other

Boldness
commitment to quality commitment to the high ideals of higher education
Follow through
Inspiration
learning practically
Responsiveness

Perseverance and Character

never quite attitude!! work hard, work smart, efficient.
Persevere and character great communication patience helping others develop relationships with people with diverse backgrounds

Safety and Respect

Accountability
code of civil behavior

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expectations of behavior in classroom
honesty
Integrity
Respect for self and others
Safety
Value each employee and students as human beings.
violence prevention

Student Support and Engagement

Accessibility for everyone
connections to high schools
Continue to have highly skilled, talented, caring and supportive staff from the community that is being served.
flexibility and supports for non-traditional students
Strengthen their weaknesses and advance their strengths
What if you had a way to assist schools with identifying students that are in the pipeline to prison and disrupt that by providing a program that would them a different opportunity.

Student Support Services

Caring about students from day one! Not just when they get to you and you find out they are not ready. Help them to get ready!
prioritization of student need over everything
Provide childcare for students during class, work study, and for st
Providing a physically secure and emotionally safe space in which students can learn & grow
Stating abreast to the shifting trends within the workforce

Workforce Development

accessibility to job markets
Job readiness
Nimbleness
Nurture relationships with the business community to help students, and job placements
Put an emphasis on job placement
Put resources behind workforce development and job training

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Strategies to Thrive

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

Summary

Tri-C could revolutionize education by offering a comprehensive pathway from birth to bachelor's degree, with a complete campus where children progress from daycare to college without reapplying.

The school would provide arts, sports, meals, and address various community needs like food security, job placement, and affordable groceries. Programs would include free childcare, scholarships, early childhood investment, and partnerships with businesses for job pipelines.

Community integration, mental health, trade skills, mentoring, and faith-based services on campus would enhance accessibility.

Innovative courses, healthcare, economic development, and language support would further benefit underprivileged and immigrant populations, creating a holistic environment for lifelong learning and community development.

Responses

Community Development

A research program that addresses community issues and provides the data back to the community for grant opportunities and community-based solutions. Be the source of information we need.
Better knowledge of everything that Tri-C offers the community
collaborations with advanced degree institutions
Community Development (from diverse and holistic neighborhood perspective)
connections to businesses and nonprofits
Create experiences that gifts our community the ability to be able to dream again
Developing more pipeline programs for children beginning for 2 graders in neighborhoods impacted by negative determinants of health
Economic development
Expanded partnerships with business community
Focus on underprivileged populations
Food program on campus
Futurist Thinkers: Ways to innovate (and transition) for industries caught in tradition and the past.
Get people who need cars a vehicle
Have you had a listening question session with CMSD or city district students. Ask the youth what they want.
Housing issues managed so can still get education
improve physical environment
Increase community partnership
Increase global focus
mental health assistance

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More localized classroom settings. classroom in the community where the least of these reside.
More partnerships with communities of faith - why not have classes at church, temple, etc.
Needs of immigrants
Neighborhood hubs
Partner with County and City to re-build, rebrand Cleveland communities in which they serve - 2-3 mile radius focus on health, access to food, safety, etc.
Partnerships with business that provide a direct pipeline to employment
PEACE and RECONCILATION
Programs in our churches (walking distance)
Reaching populations prone to violence
someway, train leaders/organize communities to meet their deserts needs i.e food, housing, and development
Tri-C helps local neighborhood schools
utilizing more unused spaces in our communities such as churches as Hubs to connect programing right in the neighborhood.
utilize the media more
youth programming pipelines

Education Pathways

A developmental program for students with promise but not the grades.
A Pre-K and kindergarten program that guides children to want to learn more and prep them for a life of learning. Make it fun. They can be smart and cool.
A school that goes from birth to bachelor's degree. A complete pathway that goes around where you live and educates children from the entire county. A school that eliminates having to apply and maybe not getting accepted. A pathway from birth that begins with the parents all the way to that last degree. A Day care to Degree pathway A complete campus where a parent registers one time, there kid automatically goes to day care, pre-k, elementary, middle school, high school, and then college. They have all the arts programs, sports, program, music lessons. A place where meals are provided, just like college (Breakfast, lunch and dinner). Can you imagine a college like campus that was from day care to degree? Wow that would be amazing!

Affordability and job placement through college to corporation relationships and an overall relationship with community partners to inform underserved individuals of what Tri-C offers
Career development
Community financial literacy programs, beginning pre-college and extending to seasoned senior years
Community reading programs to promote pre-college literacy
Continuous Language Courses/Affinity Groups: Innovative classes for people who struggle to learn new languages.
Courses in different languages combined with ESL support to better integrate immigrant populations into society
courses on crypto currency and crypto investment-
create a pipeline to high paying jobs
create a space or community fairs for potential discerning on the path to go
Faith base services on campus
Free Childcare for students during class, work study, and studying.
free tuition
Job readiness
offer free tuition

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Partnering with major institutions in town (businesses, nonprofits, houses of worship) to offer their employees and congregants courses at their locations
Promote GED
providing more partnerships- using houses of worship as internships (audio/visual; accounting; teacher ed; etc.,) churches can be great places to gain experience and earn hours. the relationship is reciprocal- churches need volunteers, students need structured environments to gain nurtured experience, and their presence in the congregation and community is free marketing and promotion for the College!
scholarships available to all
Senior Day education services
Trade skills
utilizing houses of worship as extension campuses in the community for entry level courses- this allows a greater ease of access and can help keep costs lower allowing more people to wet their proverbial beaks with the refreshment of higher education
Workforce Development
Working phones as a part of tuition
Wrap around post-graduation coaching.

Food and Health Security

Affordability
Affordable grocery store with access to fresh, healthy goods
Food security
Healthcare services on campus
Help solve food and health insecurities and inequalities, bring grocery stores and pharmacies back to our communities Tri C can partner pharma & grocery operators and city to revitalize communities
Potential gaps: courses on how to budget, how to do certain life skills that are not always taught in school or at home
Use workforce development with pay to incentivize students, and pursue issues of need (i.e., food, clothing, pets, etc.) Help them focus on studies!

Other

A comprehensive solution for single parents who need a place to live, study, care for their children, and work
Be paid while on hands learning.
childcare
Development plans to change ecosystems
Increase Tri-C visibility
International instructors
International presence
Invest in youth at an early age - early childhood years
Job placement
Literacy, homeownership, debit relief program
Mentoring
offering more scholarships
seek our outstanding faculty
think about College early