

Program Accreditation and Health Care Initiatives

In the Loop Quarterly Newsletter

In the Loop

Volume 1, Issue 2 - October 2025

In the Loop is the official quarterly newsletter of the Program Accreditation and Health Care Initiatives department. Its purpose is to keep all specialized accredited programs across the College informed, engaged and aligned with accreditation standards, clinical compliance guidelines, health care initiatives and institutional priorities and to share success stories!

Accreditation Updates and Reminders

Accreditation

Accreditation Standards meetings were held during September, and the final program meetings will be wrapped up within the next week. Thank you for your engagement in the process, and I am looking forward to our meetings in December, when you will discuss your timelines for the review of your accreditation standards and share the two goals that the advisory committee will be working on for the report due **June 1, 2026**.

The following programs have upcoming site visits (FY 25-26):

MLT: (NAACLS) | Sept. 23 – 24, 2025

Vet Tech: (AVMA) | Oct. 8 – 9, 2025

EMT: (Ohio Board of Emergency Services) | January 2026 (Date TBD)

EMT Paramedic: (CoAEMSP) | April 2026 (Dates TBD)

Hospitality: (ACFEF) | April 7 – 9, 2026

Plant Science: (NALP) | September 2026 (Date TBD)

PTAT: (CAPTE) | Nov. 1 – 4, 2026

During a recent mock site visit, a suggestion was made to develop a resource to supplement the mock visit program, which staff and faculty can access to understand the site visit process better and gain insights overall. This project is underway — resources are being curated and content developed for the department website. *Stay tuned!*

Site Visits Update!

Congratulations to Beth Stokes, program director of Surgical Technology and Sterile Processing, and her team for a successful site visit in July! The site visit team commented on the strengths of the Surgical Technology program, and the resulting review had **no citations or recommendations** relative to compliance with standards. The program has been recommended for reaffirmation of its CAAHEP (ARC/STA) accreditation.

Affiliation Agreements

Thank you to all who were able to attend the training on the Exxat tool on Sept. 17. We hope it was informative. The vendor is currently uploading all the clinical site listings to Exxat Contracts so this information can be used for the Spring 2026 requests. A responsibility workflow document is being designed for this process and will be shared with the programs during an upcoming walk-through to help you navigate the tool. We are looking forward to this tool being fully operational to support the clinical agreement request process moving forward. *Stay tuned for times and dates for this virtual event!*

Advisory Committee Resource Guide

The legal team has approved the document and verified its accessibility. The final updates will be made with the assistance of Marketing and Communications. A link will be sent to the programs so these can be shared with their committees within the next week. Conversations about the expectations of advisory committees are occurring during the current cycle of advisory committee meetings.

Program Handbooks and Senate Bill 1 (SB1)

Meghan Estes from the Ombudsman's Office will be presenting information on SB1 and its impact on the language used in our program handbooks at the Deans Council meeting on **Oct. 24**. The Collegewide Handbook Committee, in collaboration with the Ombudsman's Office, is working on a template for a revised student resource guide/handbook that will focus on providing more guidance on program navigation. The best practice moving forward is to encourage students to reference the Tri-C student handbook for documented policies and procedures. Program director and manager input will be captured during this revision period.

Compliance Updates

The **Fall School of Nursing and Health Professions Staff Professional Development Event** is **Nov. 14**. Please **RSVP** to the Fall Professional Development invitation by ***Friday, Oct. 17***. Food will be provided, so we need a final head count to ensure the correct amount is ordered. Thank you for responding on time!

ADB Complio Refresher Training Sessions

October training sessions will be offered on the following dates:

- Thursday, Oct. 2 | 3 – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 7 | 11 a.m. – noon
- Thursday, Oct. 9 | 3 – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 14 | 11 a.m. – noon
- Thursday, Oct. 16 | 3 – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21 | 11 a.m. – noon
- Thursday, Oct. 23 | 3 – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 28 | 11 a.m. – noon
- Thursday, Oct. 30 | 3 – 4 p.m.

If you have not registered yet or need to change your registration date, please reach out to Brittany directly. Training links will be sent by ADB Complio prior to each session.

Health Requirements Resource Webpage Updates

Resources introduced during the May professional development sessions are now available on our external webpage. Updates include:

- **Clinical Compliance Flow Charts**
Step-by-step visual guides outlining the documentation process in the Immunization and Health Requirements Guide. Use these to track progress and stay organized.
- **Estimated Cost of Medical Services**
A breakdown of the typical costs for immunizations, exams and related services for both insured and uninsured students. This resource is for planning purposes only. Tri-C does not endorse specific providers.
- **Low-Cost Health Care and Insurance Resources**
A directory of local clinics, insurance options and enrollment resources in Cuyahoga County. For informational purposes only. Tri-C does not endorse providers.

Stay connected. Stay compliant.

Voices That Inspire: Beth Stokes

A program leader turning inspiration into action

Surgical Technology and Sterile Processing Program Director



Professional background: Beth Stokes began her career in graphic design after earning her bachelor's degree from Kent State University. While she enjoyed the creative work, she felt drawn to something more meaningful. That search led her to take classes at Tri-C, where she was selected as an alternate for the Surgical Assisting program. When no spots opened, she pivoted and was accepted into Lorain County Community College's Surgical Technology program. Tri-C's own Surgical Tech program would not launch until 2001. She went on to become a cardiothoracic surgical technologist, thriving in the fast-paced, high-pressure environment.

Career at Tri-C: Driven by a need to make an even greater impact in a field she found deeply fulfilling, Beth spotted a job posting at Tri-C in 2005. Her desire to work with students made the decision easy — she applied, got the job, and the rest is history. This year, she proudly celebrates 20 years as the program director!

Other achievements: Beth noticed that many students entered the Surgical Tech program with expectations shaped by TV dramas, only to be surprised by the intensity and teamwork required in real surgery. To address first-semester dropouts, she and the program preceptor, John Davis, launched a "Surgical Boot Camp." This eight-week course helps students decide if the field is right for them, saving time and resources. Since its launch, retention has improved, and the program now attracts more focused, enthusiastic students, ready to succeed in the OR.

Fun facts: Beth's favorite color is Tri-C teal, and she loves seeing the color all over campus. She is also a full-blown Halloween fanatic — think costumes, cobwebs and creepy decor. She likes to say she has OHD: Obsessed Halloween Disorder, and she embraces it proudly!

Closing remarks: When asked about her proudest moment, Beth says, "My proudest moments still happen every May when the students pass their national certification examination, and they gain employment."

We are proud to have Beth's leadership at Tri-C!

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If your program has anything that you would like to add to the next issue of "In the Loop," please contact [Amy Cottle](#).