

Karen L. Monath, CHE

Karen Monath, Associate Dean of Hospitality Management, is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York and earned her bachelor and Master's degree in Hospitality Management from Florida International University, Miami, Florida. She is a Certified Hospitality Educator and a tenured Assistant Professor at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). Before becoming an educator, Karen worked in country clubs, hotels and restaurants. Beginning as a pot washer, her determination and strong work ethic advanced her career to an executive chef, food and beverage manager and eventually owner/operator.

Prior to coming to Tri-C, Karen was not only an instructor, but managed the associate degree program in Hotel, Restaurant & Institutional Management at the Pennsylvania State University Beaver Campus. She left Penn State to pursue her lifelong dream of owning and operating her own banquet and catering center. Karen owned a popular large facility which seated 1200 people, averaged 750 events a year and served over 50,000 people per year. In 2009, after seven years in business, Karen decided to return to higher education. She came to the Hospitality Management department at Tri-C as a faculty member, earning tenure in 2014, and then served as interim Associate Dean and interim Director before being appointed as the permanent Associate Dean in August, 2015. She prides herself on being student focused, continually guiding and applauding our students and faculty, while growing the academic program stronger and keeping it viable for the College, as well as the community.