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**Tri-C Awarded 'College Ready' Grant
From Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation**

Funds support skill-building programs to help students in math and English

[Cuyahoga Community College](#) (Tri-C®) was one of 10 colleges to receive a College Ready grant from the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. The grant is intended to help better prepare high school juniors and seniors for college-level courses.

The \$262,500 grant will fund rigorous extracurricular instruction in math and English to improve the readiness of soon-to-be college students. Tri-C will use the grant to add Saturday sessions to its existing College Success program and help high school students make the transition to higher education.

There is an undeniable link between academic preparation and college completion. Students underprepared for the rigors of higher education often need remedial courses to help bridge the gap – a step that leaves many so discouraged they leave college without graduating.

National statistics show that among community college students required to take remedial courses, only one in four completes a degree or certificate.

“With the College Ready grant, Tri-C will increase the number of high school students who place directly into mainstream college-level coursework immediately following high school graduation,” said Tri-C President Dr. Alex Johnson. “That represents a significant step toward those students achieving future academic success.”

The Saturday program – which will be held at Tri-C’s Metropolitan Campus – will combine computer-based math and English skills enhancement with academic coaching from professional tutors. The sessions will help 150 high school students in the coming year.

The College Success program is a collaborative effort among Tri-C, the Cleveland Foundation and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD).

Previously, the program operated only during school days in six CMSD high schools, with limited time available during free periods and before and after classes. The new Saturday sessions will run seven hours and be available throughout the school year.

Great Lakes awarded a total of \$1.3 million in College Ready grants to colleges and community-based organizations in Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The grants will provide extra academic support to nearly 1,000 students during the 2014-2015 academic year.

These grants are just one way Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation works to achieve its goal of helping more students benefit from their investment in higher education and graduate ready to reach their full potential.

"Moving students toward greater opportunity in life benefits us all," said Richard D. George, Great Lakes' president and chief executive officer. "We fund programs that understand the root cause of what holds students back and take bold steps to overcome these obstacles.

"We look forward to seeing the impact that Cuyahoga Community College can have on helping more students graduate and achieve their full potential."

***About Great Lakes and Community Investments:** Knowing that education has the power to change lives for the better, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates helps millions of students pay for college and repay their student loans. Through Community Investments, Great Lakes leads initiatives and funds programs that help students from traditionally underserved backgrounds start and complete a two- or four-year degree or other credential. Since 2006, Great Lakes has committed in excess of \$100 million in funding to programs that share these goals. For additional information, visit community.mygreatlakes.org.*