

WINTER 2022

# INVEST IN PEOPLE

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
Advance Futures, Transform The Region.

## Cuyahoga Community College Tri-C® Foundation Mission:

To provide resources for advancing student success at Cuyahoga Community College and to transform the lives of those Tri-C serves.



Alex Johnson, Ph.D.  
President,  
Cuyahoga Community College



Megan O'Bryan  
Vice President, Development  
President, Tri-C Foundation



Lou Joseph  
Chairperson, Tri-C Foundation  
Board of Directors

## Together, we can break down more barriers for Tri-C students

Tri-C students are resilient, dedicated and resourceful. However, the continuing pandemic presents serious challenges for community college students here in Northeast Ohio and across the nation. As we work diligently to bring students back to campus, we ask that you double down on your support to Cuyahoga Community College. The region's future workforce depends on Tri-C increasing its enrollment in key programs like nursing, public safety, information technology and manufacturing. Your support will help us uplift, assist and encourage our students during this critical time.

Donor support enables Tri-C to invest in creative solutions to address urgent student needs, including scholarships, earn-and-learn programs, technology for at-home learning and emergency financial support to help with things like a car repair or a child care crisis. Expanded debt forgiveness has been initiated to resolve unpaid tuition bills so students who dropped out can resume their education. And donors have invested in food pantries and wraparound supports to provide students with a comprehensive "safety net" while enrolled at Tri-C.

When you support the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, you ensure that funds are available to meet the growing needs of Tri-C students. Your support fills unfunded gaps not covered by financial aid. Your support sends the message to our students that their goals and dreams are important to the future of Northeast Ohio. Indeed, that is a hopeful and reassuring message that we all need today.

Tri-C students can't do it without your help and support. Financial contributions to the Foundation are essential to maintain and amplify student programs not funded by other sources.

**Thank you** for investing in our students. Your support is needed now more than ever. ■

## Tri-C President Alex Johnson announces June 2022 retirement

After nearly a decade of transformative leadership, Tri-C President Alex Johnson has announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2022.

Johnson became the College's fourth full-time president in July 2013. His legacy includes increased graduation rates and numbers, new investments in workforce training, capital improvements and programs serving those in low-income and distressed communities. He has been a highly engaged and dynamic leader in the Foundation's fundraising efforts, bringing new levels of success to our philanthropic goals. The Foundation has established the **Alex Johnson Access, Equity and Success Endowed Fund** in his honor. ■

Applause!

A celebration of the leadership and legacy of Cuyahoga Community College President

**Alex Johnson**

Benefiting the Dr. Alex Johnson Access, Equity and Success Fund

SAVE THE DATE  
**THURSDAY**  
**JUNE 23, 2022**  
**5 P.M.**

Cuyahoga Community College

Cleveland Public Auditorium  
500 Lakeside Ave. E  
Cleveland, OH 44114

## The Honorable Frank G. Jackson “Committed to Cleveland” Scholarship Fund honors a lifetime of public service

Frank G. Jackson, Tri-C alum and outgoing Cleveland mayor, completed an unprecedented fourth term at the end of 2021. Throughout his career in public service, he has been an advocate for building equity and opportunity for all Clevelanders.

To honor his legacy and commitment to educating Cleveland’s diverse workforce, donors to the Tri-C Foundation have established **The**

### **Honorable Frank G. Jackson “Committed to Cleveland” Scholarship Fund.**

This fund will support Cleveland residents who enroll in Tri-C’s workforce programs, preparing them for in-demand jobs where they can build careers and support their families. Learn more at [tri-c.edu/give](http://tri-c.edu/give). ■



(from left) Frank Jackson, Tri-C student Bishop Crosby, Tri-C President Alex Johnson

## Mandel Foundation grant establishes Youth Humanities Academy

### Academy will offer educational opportunities for high school juniors and seniors

The board of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation has approved a five-year grant to establish Tri-C’s **Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Youth Humanities Academy.**

The academy will offer rising junior and senior high school students an opportunity to broaden their humanities education during a nine-week summer session. Students will explore material in art, religion, literature, philosophy and other subjects to deepen their understanding of the humanities and prepare for college-level academic work.

Based at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center on Tri-C’s Eastern Campus, the academy will initially focus on students from districts in Cleveland and its first-ring suburbs. Students will visit museums, local cinemas, other colleges and universities to engage with hands-on exhibits, watch and discuss films and live presentations, and dialogue with area scholars. “We are pleased to take this next step in growing a partnership with Tri-C that engages young people to understand how the humanities enrich their personal



Kait Berg

experiences,” said Jehuda Reinharz, president and CEO of the Mandel Foundation. “Inspiring students early will help them grow into the civic-minded citizens Northeast Ohio needs to lead us toward a stronger social and economic future.”

Spring 2021 Tri-C graduate and Mandel Scholar Kait Berg communicates the promise future scholars can expect from the opportunity. The Olmsted Falls resident is pursuing a double major in graphic design and geography at Ohio University in hopes of

becoming an urban planner.

Berg credits the Mandel Scholar experience, particularly the Community Engagement course, as a source of inspiration and motivation. Students researched all 36 Cleveland neighborhoods to develop and present investment recommendations to Habitat for Humanity. “I have learned so much about myself,” she remarked. “I thank Dean Matthew Jordan and the whole Mandel Center team for their endless support, guidance and understanding.” ■

## Transformative PNC gift supports a continuum of education



**Jordon Huff**

PNC is focused on enhancing the quality of life for Northeast Ohioans by ensuring that economic mobility and equitable opportunities are available to everyone. This philosophy prompted a transformational investment in Tri-C to support three key College initiatives: High Tech Academy, the Presidential Scholarship Luncheon and wraparound support for students of color.

Pat Pastore, PNC regional president of Cleveland and Tri-C Foundation board member, said “PNC understands the challenges many students face

throughout their academic journey, and we want to provide the support needed for them to succeed,” he said. “By investing in Tri-C, we are helping its students gain the proper skills, credentials and reliability that local companies are looking for in a 21st-century workforce.”

PNC will continue their longstanding support of the successful **High Tech Academy**, a dual-enrollment program that allows Cleveland Metropolitan School District students to earn college credit while in high school.

Jordon Huff, a senior at East Technical High School, entered the academy in 2018. His experiences underscore the potential of PNC’s latest investment for future students. Huff’s parents enrolled him and his brother in East Tech explicitly for the High Tech Academy program. “As students, we have common goals. We all want to succeed and are serious about what we do, so the environment is different,” the Strongsville resident said.

“High Tech has changed my family. I will graduate with an associate degree out of high school!” He emphasized the outstanding staff and faculty support. “The most valuable lesson I’ve learned is that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible.”

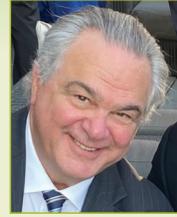
The PNC investment also will support **wraparound services** for Tri-C students, specifically African American students, with an emphasis on connecting them to paid job opportunities while they learn; relief funds to overcome unanticipated emergencies; and enhanced opportunities to participate in learning communities. Lastly, PNC is providing **scholarship support** for Tri-C students through a commitment to return as presenting sponsor of the **Presidential Scholarship Luncheon** for the next three years. ■

## Tri-C Foundation partners with estate planning resource

It is important for all of us to have an estate plan to protect our assets, our family and the legacy we will leave to our community.

Tri-C has partnered with FreeWill, an online tool that guides users through the process of creating a legally valid will and building a legacy. It’s easy to use, free of charge and can be completed in 20 minutes. Used by more than 350,000 Americans, FreeWill’s mission is to make estate planning free and accessible for all. The program also allows our supporters to notify us of existing estate plans that benefit Tri-C, and provides information on how to designate the Foundation as a beneficiary of insurance, IRA or another financial plan. Get started at [tri-c.edu/give/planned-giving](http://tri-c.edu/give/planned-giving). ■

## Tri-C Foundation board welcomes new members



**Edward Cochran**

*President, Cochran Family Foundation*



**Helen Forbes Fields, Esq. (ex-officio)**

*Executive Vice President and General Counsel,  
United Way of Greater Cleveland  
Chairperson, Tri-C Board of Trustees*



**Andrea Hogben**

*Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing &  
Communications Officer, Medical Mutual*



**James Merlino, M.D.**

*Chief Clinical Transformation Officer,  
Cleveland Clinic*



**Michele Schrock**

*Senior Vice President and Private Bank Regional  
Director, Huntington National Bank*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ADVANCE FUTURES, TRANSFORM THE REGION.**



Cuyahoga Community College Foundation  
700 Carnegie Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLEVELAND, OH  
PERMIT #3675

**SAVE THE DATE**

43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL TRI-C **JAZZ FEST** CLEVELAND  
JUNE 23-25, 2022

PRESENTED BY **KeyBank**

## Distinguished alumna honors faculty with scholarship and surprise

Ariane Kirkpatrick established the **Kathy Baka Inspiration Scholarship** in a Nov. 17 ceremony open to family, friends and College representatives. The scholarship honors history professor Kathy Baka, whose passion for education has supported countless students. Kirkpatrick created the scholarship to recognize Baka's impact on her life. "This is a professor who took a chance and an extra care with me," Kirkpatrick said. "She showed me just how important it is to make sure I was getting out what I was trying to put in."

The campus event honored Kirkpatrick with the Tri-C Distinguished Alumni Award. After she received it, Kirkpatrick invited Baka to join her onstage while she presented her contribution and thanked the professor who impacted her life. Kirkpatrick is a 1990 graduate of Tri-C and a recent graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program. She serves on the WCED Board of Visitors. ■

