Ever since Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) opened its doors more than 50 years ago, founded by a vote of the people as Ohio’s first community college, it has provided open access to education. Tri-C meets individuals where they are, helping students earn a degree and join the region’s workforce, transfer to a four-year institution or gain the knowledge needed for professional or personal development. The College has awarded more than 80,000 degrees and certificates since its first commencement ceremony in 1965.

Tri-C’s commitment to student success and degree completion can be demonstrated through several key initiatives. The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation’s Completion Scholarship Initiative is playing an important role in helping students complete their education. Community partners are providing much needed financial assistance to students who may be at risk of dropping out before completing their degrees due to lack of financial resources. The College’s Academic Advising Plan provides targeted outreach to students with 45 or more credits to connect them to faculty and counseling teams, helping to develop an academic completion plan and encouraging students to register for the next semester. This helps move students closer to graduation and completion.

(Continued on page 6)
Minute Men Incorporated Establishes Scholarship Fund Honoring Founder

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation appreciates the generosity of Minute Men Incorporated, which has established the Samuel G. Lucarelli Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of its founder, Samuel G. Lucarelli.

Mr. Lucarelli, who passed away last November, established Minute Men Incorporated in 1968 with money that he saved while working as a beverage distributor. By the early 1970s, the company had earned a solid reputation for responsiveness to customers.

The Samuel G. Lucarelli Endowed Scholarship Fund of the Tri-C Foundation will support students from the city of Cleveland who have financial need.

“We are so very pleased to honor my father and the founder of Minute Men Incorporated by establishing this scholarship for Tri-C students. He believed in hard work and supporting our community. This scholarship will help those working hard to achieve a better future and will support the community he loved,” said Jason Lucarelli, president, Minute Men Incorporated.

In support of the College’s workforce training programs, Jason Lucarelli and Minute Men Incorporated are also generously supporting the purchase of a new truck driving simulator for use by the Tri-C Truck Driving Academy. This equipment will help provide more effective and efficient training for students enrolled in the academy.
56th Annual GRAMMY Awards Have Tri-C Connection

Cuyahoga Community College Foundation is pleased to congratulate Tri-C benefactor, Mr. Tommy LiPuma on his 2014 GRAMMY® win.

Mr. LiPuma’s efforts were recognized earlier this year at the 56th annual GRAMMY Awards, when Sir Paul McCartney’s “Live Kisses” won Best Surround Sound Album. Mr. LiPuma was the album’s producer. The album also won Best Film.

These awards bring Mr. LiPuma’s GRAMMY wins to five. The sound of popular music today owes much to his contribution as a producer, talent scout, and record company executive. A Cleveland native, Mr. LiPuma began his career in record promotion and rose quickly to become a celebrated producer of star talent and an industry leader. He has served in significant positions at almost every major record company. To date, his productions have amounted to more than 75 million discs sold, with 36 albums certified gold or platinum, 36 Grammy nominations, along with his five Grammy wins. Diana Krall, Barbra Streisand, Miles Davis, Natalie Cole, George Benson, Sir Paul McCartney and Leon Russell are but a few of the star artists whose careers have benefited from his hands-on guidance.

In 2012, the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College named the College’s arts center the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts, in recognition of Mr. LiPuma’s support of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, the College and the students served.

“Mr. LiPuma is one of the music industry’s most innovative and creative forces. He has been a true friend to our institution and his forethought is providing education for the next generation of the music industry,” said Gloria J. Moosmann, vice president, Development and Tri-C Foundation.

Through a partnership between Mr. LiPuma and the Tri-C Foundation, the College is leveraging the musical genius and generosity of Mr. LiPuma to build and sustain the rich legacy of the College’s music programs, to preserve the legacy of jazz (contemporary music), and to establish the Tommy LiPuma Endowment Fund. He is committed to sharing his musical genius to enhance the College’s music programs, serving as an advisor and guest speaker, assisting in the development of young talent and facilitating future collaborations between the College and professional artists and technicians. He has also led master classes by Diana Krall and Janis Siegel for Tri-C students. Leon Russell will conduct a master class later this month.

Another Tri-C connection at the GRAMMY Awards this year was Best Jazz Vocal Album, “Liquid Spirit,” by Gregory Porter. Mr. Porter’s musical team includes trumpeter Curtis Taylor, former Tri-C Jazz Studies student. Mr. Taylor was a member of the College’s JazzPrep program and a member of the Tri-C JazzFest All-Stars before continuing his studies at Michigan State University and Rutgers, where he completed his master’s degree in jazz performance. Gregory Porter will be performing at the Tri-C JazzFest in June. Congratulations to the Porter team and to Mr. Taylor!
Giving that Gives Back: Dr. & Mrs. Harry Graham

Dr. Harry and Joyce Graham have a warm spot in their hearts for Cuyahoga Community College. The Grahams moved from Wisconsin when Dr. Graham was offered a position in Cleveland. Mrs. Graham continued working in a research lab but then decided it was time for a career change. She enrolled in accounting classes at the College, eventually passed the CPA exam and started her own successful business. Dr. Graham joined the College Board of Trustees in 2012.

At this point in their lives, the Grahams wanted to do something to support Tri-C students. “Tri-C has been very good to us and we strongly believe in giving back. Tri-C students are the foundation and building block for our community. They are the future of our region,” Mrs. Graham said.

Through a charitable gift annuity, the Grahams are making a meaningful gift to the Tri-C Foundation to benefit the students of the College and are receiving a fixed annual income for their lifetime. “It’s the right thing to do, and it helps our students get a leg up on completing their education,” added Dr. Graham.

With a charitable gift annuity, the payout rate is based on your age at the time you make your gift. Your interest rate will remain the same for your entire life. Annuities may be established in one or two names. Staff members at the Tri-C Foundation will help you match your personal circumstances and philanthropic goals.

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation greatly appreciates the support of Dr. and Mrs. Graham and all of the friends who generously give back to support student success at Tri-C.

Scholarship Recipients Honored at 37th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observation

Congratulations to the 2014 scholarship recipients of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Scholarship Fund. These 26 students were honored at Tri-C’s 37th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance on January 19.

Scholarship recipients are graduates of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), have achieved sophomore status at Tri-C while working toward an associate degree and have demonstrated humanitarian service to the community and campus leadership. In addition, four students also received awards from the Cleveland Teachers Union Scholarship Fund, for graduates of CMSD attending Tri-C, which recognizes academic achievement and community leadership.

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation congratulates all scholarship recipients and extends sincere appreciation to all of the generous donors supporting scholarships for student success!
“This scholarship has helped me to set out on a great path in the medical field. The scholarship was a great gift that I am so thankful for. I will try my best to do well at Tri-C using this gift. Thank you for your generosity.”

Ashley Carrión
Medical Assisting

“I would like to thank the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation for awarding me this scholarship. It is an honor to receive this scholarship.”

Ashley Blackwell
Business Management

“It is impossible to reach career goals without the help of others who financially contribute to your education.”

Claudio Peña
Construction Engineering

“Through Tri-C I have found my wings; today the sky is the limit, and tomorrow I dare to dream about something even greater. The honor of being selected as a Tri-C Foundation scholarship recipient is simply invaluable. Thank you for your support!”

Ildiko Yuryev
Nursing
of an associate degree. Providing assistance to students closest to degree completion through Priority Registration provides qualified students with an opportunity to register for classes earlier than their peers, before classes fill, providing them with the widest availability of courses from which to complete their degrees.

A number of new initiatives are also taking place. Today, the United States ranks 16th in the world in college attainment for the 25- to 34-year-old population. In an effort to improve these statistics, the 2020 College Completion Challenge was launched. To help meet this national goal of delivering 10 million more college degrees by 2020, Tri-C pledged to deliver 13,000 more associate degrees by the deadline as its contribution to this initiative, in addition to the degrees generally awarded each year. President Alex Johnson has made this a top priority through a College initiative known as the Completion Agenda.

Students may change their minds about the major they wish to pursue, but they do not register this change with the College. As a result, their path to graduation may take longer. The Make A Major Decision campaign allows for a more direct path to degree completion by keeping students on track with the courses they need to graduate.

Beginning in Fall 2014, the College will offer a new course, First Year Experience (FYE). The course will include peer mentors and an introduction to services and habits that improve student retention, persistence and success.

“The Completion Agenda is a major priority for student success at Cuyahoga Community College,” said Karen Miller, vice president, Access and Completion. “This is an exciting time as our College community works together to ensure completion, helping students to save time and money while earning their degrees and certificates in a more efficient timeframe. Increasing the number of credentialed residents benefits our entire region, as it provides an educated workforce to meet the current needs of our business and workforce partners,” Ms. Miller continued.
Cuyahoga Community College Celebrates Fall Commencement Ceremony

Cuyahoga Community College held its second annual Fall Commencement on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at Cleveland Public Auditorium. A total of 1,596 students graduated.

The College conferred 547 Associate of Arts degrees, 258 Associate of Applied Business degrees, 477 Associate of Applied Science degrees, 113 Associate of Science degrees and 201 certificates of completion.

“As these students walk across the stage in celebration of their academic success, they become part of the foundation of educational excellence built over 50 years at Cuyahoga Community College,” said Dr. Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C.

The College awarded an Honorary Associate of Arts degree in Humane Letters to Morton L. Mandel for his longstanding support. He is chairman and CEO of Parkwood LLC, a private trust company, and also chairman and CEO of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.

Earlier in the day, the College held its Nursing Pinning Ceremony at the Metropolitan Campus Recreation Center. The graduating class comprised 222 graduates from Tri-C’s four campuses.

Employee Donor Spotlight

Dr. Phyllis Dukes is a professor of counseling at the Metropolitan Campus and has been a member of the College faculty for the past 14 years. She has served as president of the Tri-C Black Caucus for four years and has helped lead the efforts for the annual Frances M. Franklin Scholarship & Protégé Luncheon.

Dr. Dukes believes it is important for faculty to support students in their educational journey by contributing to scholarships. “Like myself, many of our students are first generation college students, who need the additional financial support to successfully complete their education.” She added, “I can’t think of a better investment. These are our future teachers, doctors or engineers.”

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation greatly appreciates the support of Dr. Dukes and all of the faculty and staff who generously give back to support student success at Tri-C.
GUEST COLUMN

TOMMY LIPUMA

Mr. Tommy Lipuma
Chairman Emeritus of the Verve Music Group

Tri-C is a Model for Creative Arts Programs

As a music industry executive and producer for nearly 50 years, I have had the opportunity to see educational programs and facilities around the world, in cities like Los Angeles, London and New York City. The creative arts program at Cuyahoga Community College, and the Tommy Lipuma Center for Creative Arts itself, are exactly the model that any leading institution in any of those cities would be proud to have. I am proud to be associated with the program and lend my name to the signage on the Tommy Lipuma Center for Creative Arts, the nucleus of music education at Tri-C.

Through a partnership with the College, we are bringing world-class musicians to Tri-C to present master classes. Diana Krall and Janis Siegel were among the first to give a first-hand look at the music industry. Leon Russell will conduct a master class later this month. I feel it is important for those aspiring to work in the music industry, whether they are an engineer, mixer, producer, or performer, to understand the business from the ground up. Students need to know what is important to the business so that they can set out on the right foot and be successful. This is very exciting to me.

Tri-C is at a world-class level. The future of music, and the future of the music business starts in programs like these. Through the Tommy Lipuma Endowment Fund of the Tri-C Foundation, I am able to help the next generation of musicians through scholarship support and in the discovery and development of young talent. I want to give back to the town that basically gave me my start and I cannot think of a better way to do so than by supporting the next generation of musicians through Tri-C’s programs.

Online Giving Provides Way to Support Scholarships

If you would like to support the Completion Agenda or any other scholarship fund to help Tri-C students, consider making a secure, online gift. With the Foundation’s online donation center you can make a gift to scholarships, programs, or special event funds. You can also provide ongoing support with a monthly gift using your credit card. You receive immediate confirmation of your donation via email. Thank you for keeping the Tri-C Foundation among your charitable giving priorities. www.tri-c.edu/donate

Gannett Foundation Supports Journalism and Mass Communications Scholarships

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation appreciates the continued support of the Gannett Foundation for the Journalism and Mass Communications Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund was established to support Tri-C students who are studying in these and other programs in communication fields. This generous support from the Gannett Foundation will enable the College to develop future generations of well-trained journalists.

www.tri-c.edu/donate
Alumni Scholarship Fund Makes a Difference for Tri-C Students

Scholarships play an important part in the education of many students at Tri-C. They are critical to enabling student success, which is why securing funding for them is a priority of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation. One of the more than 120 scholarship funds of the Foundation is the Alumni Scholarship Fund, established with the generous support of Cuyahoga Community College graduates who believe that Tri-C students make a difference in our community.

Alumni Scholarship recipient Kyle Radatz chose Cuyahoga Community College because of its affordability and accessibility. Since he had already taken post-secondary classes at Tri-C while in high school, he was familiar with the College and knew about its curriculum and reputation in the community. Mr. Radatz, like many Tri-C students, is working while taking classes. He is excited to be part of the College’s nursing program, having been influenced by his sister and aunt, both of whom are nurses. He looks forward to working in a hospital setting either as a floor nurse or in the ER, and has a long-term goal to continue his education and become a nurse practitioner.

Receiving the Alumni Scholarship from the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation was a great opportunity that Mr. Radatz said came at the right time for him and his family. He is grateful to those who support the Foundation’s scholarships and said he is thankful to receive the award, which has meant a lot to him as he continues his studies in the nursing program.

For more information on the Alumni Scholarship, visit the Foundation website at www.tri-c.edu/foundation. Your support of scholarships for student success can go a long way in helping students complete their education and reach their goals of completing a college education.
Alumni Profile

Emilia Leone’s story proves that Cuyahoga Community College is where futures begin. In 1980 she began her college experience at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. Unsure of her career direction at that time, she was certain that Tri-C was a great resource, providing an affordable education that would help her determine her career path. Shortly after beginning classes she began working as a student assistant at Western Campus.

Ms. Leone graduated with an Associate of Applied Business degree in 1982 and joined a small computer sales company. She later returned to her alma mater as budget secretary in the same department she worked as a student, the Department of Health Careers and Natural Sciences, eventually transitioning from part-time to full-time. She later became a research assistant for the Physician Assistant program, during which time she enrolled part-time at The University of Akron. She graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Technical Education.

The following year, Ms. Leone joined Ernst & Young, where she is now an assistant director and the Global Industry Learning Leader, providing strategic direction for the identification, design, development and deployment of a global industry curriculum for the firm’s professionals.

“I’ve been given many opportunities at Ernst & Young over the years and my career here has been, and continues to be, very rewarding”, Ms. Leone said. “I attribute my successful career to my experiences at Cuyahoga Community College. Tri-C gave me the opportunities – personal, professional and educational – to excel. The Tri-C Foundation Alumni Scholarship Fund helps make it possible for others to benefit from the College’s outstanding instructors and education, which is why I am pleased to be a supporter of the Tri-C Foundation.”

The Tri-C Foundation’s Completion Scholarship Initiative

For community college students, life’s obligations often take priority over completion of education, especially for those raising a family. In many cases, the need to work full time in order to make ends meet often results in little time to focus on education, despite the fact that it is a factor in improving one’s quality of life.

Raising funds for scholarships has long been a top priority for the Tri-C Foundation. In the last five years, more than $7.1 million has been awarded through more than 8,500 Tri-C Foundation scholarships. However, the need is greater than the resources. We are grateful to our Foundation Directors for making the Completion Scholarship Initiative a top priority.

In order to stay the course and meet the Tri-C goal of producing an additional 13,000 graduates by 2020, we must continue to provide scholarship support to students who are most in need of financial assistance, especially those so very close to graduation. As you have read in this issue, the College has developed a plan to support student success and afford students the opportunity to pursue their degrees. Through the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, we can ensure the resources are there to help them stay in the classroom and meet their goals of achieving a college degree.
The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Welcomes New Directors

**Zack Bruell** is owner of Zack Bruell Restaurants, which includes Parallax, L’Albatros Brasserie, Cowell & Hubbard, Ristorante Chinato, Dynomite and Kafeteria. He is also consulting chef and co-creator at Table 45 at the InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center at Cleveland Clinic. Mr. Bruell served in the Coast Guard Reserve and transferred to the University of Colorado Boulder to complete his business degree. He graduated from The Restaurant School in Philadelphia.

**David W. Whitehead** is the retired vice president, corporate secretary and chief ethics officer of FirstEnergy. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College (and past chairperson). Mr. Whitehead formerly served as chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners for Cleveland Metroparks. He received his Bachelor of Arts and law degrees from Cleveland State University.

Thank You to Outgoing Director

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation thanks departing director Edward J. Hartzell, who served since 2004, helping the Foundation secure critically needed dollars for student scholarships and program enhancement and development.

Director Hartzell served on four of five committees: the Committee on Directors, (2005-2013), Development Committee (2004-2005), Audit Committee (2009-2012) and Executive Committee (2005-2012). He also served as vice chair from 2005 to 2006, and has been a continuous supporter of the Presidential Scholarship Luncheon and Tri-C JazzFest.
This issue of *Invest in People* generously provided by Consolidated Solutions.