

MEET ME @

TRI-C

KELLIE EMRICH, associate professor of business administration, has worked at Cuyahoga Community College for 11 years. Raised in Strongsville, she now calls Brecksville home. Metro Campus is her base of operations.

Q: How did you find your way to Tri-C?

KE: After working in the corporate business world for 10 years, it was time to pursue my dream of becoming a college professor. Once I finished my MBA and my first child was born, I was motivated to go back out and explore a new career. Leading corporate training programs confirmed that I wanted to influence others to think creatively and be curious. Tri-C was one of the first colleges I wanted to work for because I loved the impact the College had on the community. It was not an easy process, but I was lucky enough to eventually end up as a business and marketing professor at Tri-C.

Q: What are some of the primary or current topics you cover in your courses?

KE: Soft skills are covered in all classes. Professionalism and critical thinking are skills our advisory committee tells us it is looking for.

In the classroom, we create teams to confront challenging scenarios, simulating a professional environment for students.

Social media marketing is a big topic right now. We have a new certificate in social media marketing. There are numerous jobs available in this field, and we now have a marketing degree that includes the social media certificate. Both are earned after 60 credit hours.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your work?

KE: There are always opportunities or something new to learn. The fun comes from thinking of new ways to teach a concept or create a new activity that fosters learning and is hands-on. We are encouraged to continue our own learning, so I was able to pursue my DBA (Doctor of Business Administration) and other postgraduate certificates that, as Steven Covey says, “sharpen the saw.”

Q: What do you find most challenging?

KE: Engaging students. I will always answer this question with those two words. My father was a teacher and always said that no good teacher ever thinks they are good enough. They will always want to do better. Engaging students is something I never stop trying to improve and work on.



#MYTRICSTORY



ALEXIS WESTFALL

“I’VE ALREADY GOTTEN MY ASSOCIATE DEGREE THROUGH TRI-C, BUT I’M BACK FOR A THIRD YEAR IN PURSUIT OF MY BACHELOR’S AS A PART OF THE [COLLEGE’S] PARTNERSHIP WITH FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY. THIS OPPORTUNITY HAS ALLOWED ME TO DOUBLE MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING AND FORENSIC ACCOUNTING, AND — BEST OF ALL — I GET TO PAY TRI-C TUITION PRICES FOR ANOTHER YEAR.”

Affordable tuition brought Westfall to Tri-C, but the strength of the College’s academic programs convinced her to stay and continue her education. A partnership agreement between Tri-C and Franklin allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree while taking the majority of their classes at Tri-C. Westfall, 20, of North Royalton, hopes to graduate next year and pursue a job in accounting.

#MYTRICSTORY IS A SERIES HIGHLIGHTING EVERYDAY PEOPLE IN THE TRI-C COMMUNITY. TO MEET MORE FEATURED STUDENTS AND STAFF, VISIT WWW.TRI-C.EDU/NEWS-AND-EVENTS.