The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation awarded nearly $3.5 million to Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University to create a scholars program connecting high-achieving Tri-C students with CSU’s honors college.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Continuing Scholars Program forges a new partnership between the academic institutions in a collaboration that aims to be a national model for honors student transfers between two-year and four-year schools.

This academic pathway will link students from Tri-C’s Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Scholars workshops and training opportunities; and a peer mentoring network and dedicated academic advisors to guide students through to graduation.

“The Continuing Scholars Program established with this generous gift from the Mandel Foundation builds an environment that promises to bring out the best in some of our brightest students,” Tri-C President Alex Johnson said. “This partnership reflects a steadfast commitment to exceptional academic outcomes for the betterment of the community.”

“This significant investment by the Mandel Foundation paves a pathway to success between Tri-C and Cleveland State,” CSU President Ronald M. Berkman said. “The innovative collaboration between the institutions and the new level of student support will lead to honors graduates who will be ready and motivated to transform the world.”

The grant agreement calls for the first group of Mandel Scholars to transition between the schools this fall. Students must have at least a 3.5 GPA at Tri-C to be considered. The goal is to transfer 25 students per year by 2020.

Transfer students will enter CSU as juniors after earning an associate degree at Tri-C. Once at CSU, they will be on course to graduate with distinction within two years. Collaboration between faculty and advisors from Tri-C and CSU will enhance the student experience and act as a bridge between the institutions. The grant calls for joint curriculum development and enrichment activities to advance studies.

The Mandel Continuing Scholars Program builds upon academic initiatives launched at Tri-C and CSU in recent years through the generosity of the Mandel Foundation.

CSU created the Mandel Honors College in 2014 after receiving a $3.6 million grant from the Mandel Foundation. The highly selective honors program has graduated more than 400 students since its inception. A year later, Tri-C established The Mandel Honors College — the home of the College’s Mandel Scholars Academy — after receiving a $10 million gift from the Mandel Foundation. The center promotes the study of the humanities to expand critical thinking and leadership skills.

The new Mandel Continuing Scholars Program creates a process by which academic talent nurtured at Tri-C can mature at CSU, leading to graduates ready to enter the workforce and assume leadership positions in the community.

The Mandel Continuing Scholars Program grant will be administered through the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation and the Cleveland State University Foundation. Approximately $1.5 million will go to Tri-C.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center — the home of the Mandel Scholars Academy — continues to grow, attracting additional endowed faculty positions and new initiatives. A $4 million gift from the Mandel Foundation earlier this year funds the creation of the Mandel Humanities Center — the home of the College’s Mandel Scholars Academy — after receiving a $10 million gift from the Mandel Foundation.

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