

# *Alum is advocate* FOR VETERANS INITIATIVE

Monique Menefee-Profitt has overcome obstacles to build a better life for herself and her daughter

**A**fter an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Monique Menefee-Profitt found herself and her toddler homeless.

Living out of her car, she knew life had more in store for her. Her faith and resolve kept her going. After making a home for her daughter through the Cleveland Housing Network, she enrolled in the TRIO program at Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus. This federally funded program helps underserved and first-generation college students complete postsecondary education and prepare for successful baccalaureate programs.

As a veteran, Profitt became an advocate for the College's Veterans Initiative, speaking to groups and writing letters to organizations promoting the need for support for veterans and Tri-C's efforts on their behalf.

"Tri-C's Veterans Initiative helped with my adjustment to everyday life and to my college career. The individualized support and assistance I received made all the difference in my life," she recalls.

It wasn't long before this tenacious woman found herself at the head of the class, earning a Tri-C Foundation scholarship and serving as the College's Board Student Scholar for the 2008-2009 academic year. By the time she completed her tenure in that role, she had also earned three degrees from Tri-C: an Associate of Arts, an Associate of Science and an Associate of Business.

But she didn't stop there. Profitt continued her studies at Kent State University, earning her Bachelor of



Science in Spanish translation and her Master of Education in higher education administration. Ohio Gov. John Kasich acknowledged her leadership by appointing her as the board of trustees graduate representative to the Kent State University Board of Trustees.

"Tri-C is one of the greatest places I have encountered on my journey. I will forever be grateful for all the support and many wonderful people who took time to help foster the person I have become. Tri-C will always be home," Profitt said.

Today, Profitt serves as the associate director of Career-Technical Transfer Initiatives for the Ohio Articulation

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and Transfer Network in the Ohio Department of Higher Education and is passionately dedicated to helping others reach their educational goals and aspirations. She is an inspiration to others, including her daughter.

"My future began at Tri-C," Profitt said.

# Grant from Alcoa Foundation

## TO PROVIDE CUTTING-EDGE MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation has received a \$75,000 grant from Alcoa Foundation to upgrade the College's manufacturing lab with computer-controlled machines, robotic arms and other technological tools vital to training tomorrow's workforce. The new equipment will help make Tri-C students more proficient with smart manufacturing methods, better preparing them for in-demand industrial jobs requiring technical skills.

"Today's manufacturing jobs require skilled workers proficient with the latest technology in the industry," said Alicia Booker, vice president of manufacturing with Tri-C's Workforce, Community and Economic Development (WCED) division. "Alcoa Foundation's generosity ensures that our students will train on equipment they will encounter in manufacturing."

Tri-C is developing a training program in conjunction with industry leaders such as Alcoa to ensure graduates develop the skills needed to get jobs. The Siemens Mechatronics Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) will be integrated into the new training program, providing participants the opportunity to earn a nationally recognized certificate.

"Digital technology and automation is a growing part of doing business across all sectors, from aerospace to

electronics," said Ryan Kish, Alcoa Foundation program manager. "Alcoa and other advanced manufacturers require a more highly-skilled employee than just a decade ago to manage and interpret this new level of data and use it to problem-solve in real time. Students in Tri-C's upgraded training center will learn to interpret and react to data streaming from smart tools to experience in-the-moment action that affects productivity, quality and delivery."

The equipment will serve as the centerpiece of the College's revamped manufacturing center. The Unified Technologies Center, which opened in 1986, is undergoing a renovation to house the College's Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence. Plans call for the new equipment to

be installed by the middle of the year on the main floor of the UTC, located on Woodland Avenue at the College's Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland.

Alcoa has been a long-term partner of the Tri-C Foundation and the College and has made a lasting impact on the region through support for student scholarships, veterans programs and special initiatives. Recent support from Alcoa has also funded a veterans coordinator who offers outreach and support services for veterans and benefited College's Youth Technology Academy, enhancing opportunities for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) engagement outside the classroom. The College and the Tri-C Foundation appreciate their continued, generous support.



Alcoa recently presented a grant to the Tri-C Foundation to provide equipment that will help Tri-C students acquire the skills required for jobs in advanced manufacturing. Pictured, left to right: Alicia Booker, Vice President, Manufacturing, Workforce and Economic Development (WCED); Michael Schoop, President, Tri-C Metro Campus; William Gary, Executive Vice President, WCED; Alex Johnson, President, Tri-C; Cary Dell, Manager, Internal Communications, Alcoa and Ryan Kish, Program Manager, Alcoa Foundation, with students Christine Francisco and Vincent Suber.