Coming Full Circle:
A Journey Starts and Ends at Tri-C®

Antonio Bohanon
never imagined himself
designing wings for
aircraft, but that’s
what he does as a
CNC programmer at
NobleTek in Wooster.

Nine years ago, Bohanon
was a participant in
Cuyahoga Community
College’s Youth Technology Academy (YTA), a one-of-a-
kind, STEM-focused high school program that trains
students for the technical workforce. There, he saw
his passion for engineering and technology flourish.

“It really set me up for where I’m at now,” he said.

After graduating from Collinwood High School in
2009, Bohanon decided to pursue an electrical
engineering degree at the University of Toledo. Three
years in, his father passed away. With only one year
left to graduation, he made the difficult decision to
leave school.

Back in Cleveland, Bohanon struggled for direction.
“I knew I didn’t want a factory job making minimum
wage,” he said. “It wasn’t enough for me.”

His uncle, a CNC machinist, suggested that he look
into Tri-C’s Precision Machining program.

In September 2014, Bohanon enrolled in the
Precision Machining Technology I certificate program
and spent 14 weeks working on manual CNC
machines. His interest piqued, he enrolled in the
second-level certificate program, where he learned
about programmable CNC lathes and mills. He then
moved on to Precision Machining Technology III,
completing the program in less than seven months
while working full time.

Bohanon appreciated Tri-C’s smaller class sizes and
the accessibility of instructors and program staff.
He was especially thankful for the hands-on learning
opportunities the College provides, which suit his
learning style better than typical classroom lectures.

“We would talk about something in class and then
go to the shop floor. Once I saw it a couple of times,
it was in my memory,” he said.

Bohanon was able to transfer many of his
engineering courses from the University of Toledo
and apply them toward an associate degree. These
credits, combined with the certificates he earned
from Tri-C, left him needing only a few more courses
to graduate. In December 2016, he received an
associate degree in applied industrial technology.

Bohanon’s position at NobleTek, secured with help
from the College, allows him to meet with
clients across the country and earn certifications in
new, complex software.

“I wouldn’t have received this opportunity or the
attention of the company without the skills and help
that Tri-C gave me,” he said.