Connecting to Our Community

Cuyahoga Community College provides high quality and affordable educational offerings for college-age students, working retired adults, and K-12 students throughout Northeast Ohio. The College’s Workforce and Economic Development Division offers a wide range of career support and training opportunities that respond to the needs of individuals seeking career advice, short term training and re-training leading to employment in our region. Working with area employers, Tri-C’s Corporate College provides education for incumbent workers in our region which enables them to stay current in their chosen careers and to learn new skills that lead to a more efficient and effective labor force.

The Tri-C Foundation Board works to engage our community in support of the College’s programs including the Invest in People – Support Scholarships for Student Success campaign, the annual Presidential Scholarship Luncheon, and educational initiatives such as the Centers for Nursing and Health Careers. In addition, the Tri-C Foundation Directors look to community leaders for new and exciting ways that the College can provide services that will keep this connection alive. For information on how you can connect with Tri-C to support education, contact the Tri-C Foundation at (216) 987-4868.

Shelley Roth, Chairperson Tri-C Foundation

Responding to the Community’s Need for Nursing and Health Care Workers

With the help of many community partners, Cuyahoga Community College is responding to the growing demand for highly skilled nursing and health care workers. Tri-C offers more than 30 associate degree, short-term award, and certificate programs, and produces the eleventh highest number of associate degrees in the health professions and related sciences in the nation.

The College continues to expand its program capacity to keep up with the growing demand for training. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 20.4 percent increase in employment for health care workers through 2006. In fall 2004, 5,975 students College-wide were enrolled in health careers or nursing courses, an 11 percent increase over the fall 2003 enrollment.

A steady increase in enrollment has led to an increased need for scholarships. The Nursing and Health Careers Scholarship fund was established by the Tri-C Foundation to increase access to training in these high skill, high demand career areas. Generous support from numerous individuals, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Medical Mutual of Ohio, David and Inez Myers Foundation, Saint Luke’s Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio, The Sherwick Fund, and The Helen F. Stolier and Louis Stolier Family Foundation, and the Federal government has increased the availability of scholarships for Tri-C students enrolled in nursing and health career programs.

“"The nursing and health careers programs at Tri-C offer students flexibility in scheduling, with classes in the day or evening. This flexibility, together with ‘state of the future’ facilities and technology, human patient simulation, and hands-on experiences at some of the country’s most renowned clinical facilities, prepares our graduates to enter their chosen field immediately upon graduation,” said Tri-C President, Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton. The pass rate for graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Tri-C is 98 percent compared to the national average of 85 percent. The average pass rate for the College’s health career technology programs is 92 percent.
Connecting Students to the Regional Workforce

Cuyahoga Community College connects students to the needs of our regional workforce. Tri-C serves the needs of many groups within our community: students and their families who benefit directly from the educational services the College provides, area businesses that hire Tri-C graduates, and four-year colleges and universities where many Tri-C students continue their education. The College works diligently to ensure that its programs and services respond to community needs by continuously assessing its linkages with our community, its leaders, and area businesses.

With assistance from its community partners, the College designs educational programs and services that effectively prepare students and respond to current and anticipated workforce needs. Program advisory boards made up of community leaders and industry representatives help Tri-C to align its curricula with workforce needs, the requirements of accrediting bodies, and state regulations. Your support of education helps Cuyahoga Community College connect students with careers, promoting economic growth in our region.

Tri-C Graduates Largest Class in Its History

Cuyahoga Community College campuses are bursting with energy as enrollment and graduation figures have reached an all-time record high. Tri-C’s 39th annual commencement ceremony, held on May 19th at the Wolstein Center of Cleveland State University, saw the largest graduating class in the history of the College with 2,276 graduates. In the last four years, fall semester enrollment at Tri-C has increased by 24 percent, from 20,321 in 2000 to 25,214 in fall 2004.

The College’s strong emphasis on accessible, affordable, quality education is paying off in a big way, with nearly 1,000 credit courses offered through 70 career and technical programs and the liberal arts. Tri-C has something for everyone interested in enhancing their education and training.

The value of obtaining a two-year associate degree has never been higher and those graduating from community colleges are being financially rewarded. In the next 10 years, employment for Ohio’s associate degree graduates is expected to grow by 23 percent. Cuyahoga Community College continues to provide excellent value for students and citizens of the region. Tri-C is extremely focused on achieving its mission of providing high quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services.

“The College is proud to graduate such a large number of students and we are delighted that five percent of those graduating will receive more than one associate degree. Receiving two degrees is a phenomenal accomplishment since many of our students are the first in their family to attend college and worked one or two jobs while attending classes,” said Tri-C President, Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton.

A proud graduate holds up his diploma at the 2005 commencement ceremony.
Julia and Larry Pollock welcomed over 150 guests to their home on Saturday, June 4 for an Evening in Provence, an event held in support of Scholarships for Student Success. Guests dined on wonderful French food and wines, as music drifted across the Pollock’s gardens on a picture perfect night. The evening was a grand success, raising over $114,000 for scholarships for Tri-C students. A very special thank you was extended to the Pollocks for hosting this spectacular event.
Tri-C Foundation Welcomes New Directors

Cuyahoga Community College Foundation is proud to announce four new appointments to the Board of Directors, each appointed to serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2005. “We are very pleased to add such a distinguished group of individuals to the Board,” said Richard A. Johnson, Chairperson of the Tri-C Foundation’s Committee on Directors. “They are dynamic leaders in their industries and in the community who will contribute valuable expertise and enthusiasm to our ongoing mission of supporting Cuyahoga Community College.”

Raymond A. Bernick is the Vice President of the North Ohio District for UPS. He began his career with UPS in 1977, and has held a number of positions within the UPS organization over the past 27 years. Mr. Bernick holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

April V. Boise is a partner with Thompson Hine, serving within the firm’s Corporate Transactions and Securities practice group. Ms. Boise holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

Jeffrey K. Orloff is Senior Vice President and Director of Facilities and Operations, North America for IMG, where he has served for over 18 years in numerous capacities. Mr. Orloff attended the University of Michigan and received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Thomas F. Zenty, III is President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospitals Health System. Mr. Zenty’s career includes over 20 years of service as a health care leader at academic medical centers and health care delivery systems. Mr. Zenty attended Pennsylvania State University for his undergraduate degree and earned a Masters in Public Administration from New York University and a Masters in Health Administration from Xavier University.

Special Thanks to Outgoing Directors

At its June Board of Directors meeting, the Tri-C Foundation extended special appreciation and gratitude to Foundation Directors who were unable to continue to serve on the Board. The Foundation recognized these Directors who devoted their time and resources to help the Foundation raise critically needed dollars for student scholarships and program enhancement and development: Mr. Reynaldo Galindo, Vice President, Luchita’s Mexican Restaurant; Mr. Dennis Lafferty, Executive Assistant to the Managing Partner, External Matters, Jones Day; Mr. John Lanigan, Radio Personality, WMJI-FM; Dr. Maria Pujana, Professor, Case Western Reserve University; Ms. Karen Sweeney, Vice President, Turner Construction Company; and Mr. André Thornton, President and CEO, Global Promotions & Incentives.
Connecting with Business and Industry

Higher education is critical to helping individuals within our community acquire the skills and knowledge they need for economic self-sufficiency. KeyCorp is committed to working with many groups in Northeast Ohio and across the nation to develop and enhance initiatives that support workforce development and personal achievement to improve the quality of life and create positive changes.

I am so pleased that Key’s partnership with Cuyahoga Community College has helped so many individuals in our region by providing career advice and training for those seeking to advance in their careers, change careers, or prepare to enter the workforce for the first time. Key Career Place has connected thousands of Greater Clevelanders to area businesses helping to keep our economy alive with well-trained, highly skilled workers. The Key Entrepreneur Development Center will continue to advance economic development in our region. Just as Key is committed to providing quality service to our customers we also are committed to supporting educational initiatives that help people give back to the community.

Helping Cuyahoga Community College Students to Achieve the Dream

In a competitive process, Cuyahoga Community College was one of four Ohio colleges awarded a planning grant to participate in Achieving the Dream. This national initiative, designed to increase student achievement, is funded by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Lumina Foundation for Education. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Tri-C to be part of a national network of colleges that are committed to student achievement. The initiative will promote an exchange of ideas and best practice information that will help us to serve our students more effectively,” stated Dr. Jacquelyn Joseph-Silverstein, Cuyahoga Community College Executive Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

Achieving the Dream is designed to support success particularly among under-served students for whom community colleges serve as their point of entry into higher education. “Although Tri-C provides open access to education, this access does not always result in success. Through Achieving the Dream we hope to increase the number of students who achieve their educational goals leading to degrees and certificates earned, better jobs, and increased earning potential,” noted Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, Tri-C President.

Achieving the Dream will focus on student retention, student success, and student outcomes assessment as priority initiatives at Tri-C.
Did You Know?

The Tri-C Foundation’s annual Presidential Scholarship Luncheon will celebrate its thirteenth year in 2005. The Luncheon benefits Tri-C Foundation Scholarship Funds for outstanding students and those who have financial needs. Be on the lookout for more information on this year’s Luncheon to be held in October at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel.

Anthem Supports Nursing and Health Careers Scholarship

Joseph M. LaGuardia, Regional Vice President, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio, presents Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton with a check for $50,000 to support nursing and health careers scholarships for Tri-C students through the Anthem Foundation. "Anthem understands the value that Tri-C brings to this region by providing education and leadership training for health care workers who will serve Northeast Ohio," said Mr. LaGuardia. "We are fortunate for the robust education available to members of our community through Tri-C, a shining example of health care education excellence in action."

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