

45th Annual Commencement Ceremony – More than 2,500 Graduates Honored

Tri-C is proud to announce the 2011 Commencement Ceremony with 2,544 students petitioned to graduate. The 45th annual Commencement Ceremony was held Thursday, May 19.

“The Commencement Ceremony is the highlight of our year,” says Karen Miller, dean of student affairs at the Metro Campus. “It’s so exciting to watch our graduates celebrate with their families and friends and walk across the stage. It was also fantastic to see so many staff, faculty, and administrators volunteer to help and participate in the ceremony to support our students. It was a great night for everyone involved!”



**Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, Evgeny Kasperovich,
Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton**

Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, delivered the Commencement address. Dr. Bumphus holds the distinction of being one of the few leaders in the field of education to receive the National CEO of the Year Award, to chair the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors, and to receive the AACC National Leadership Award.

The student speaker was Evgeny Kasperovich, who graduated from the theater arts and drama program with a 4.0 GPA. The Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) recently named Evgeny along with five other Tri-C students to the All-Ohio Academic Team which provides statewide recognition and scholarships to outstanding students at Ohio’s community colleges. The program is co-sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honors society for two-year colleges.

Evgeny was also chosen as a Distinguished Academic All-American by the National Junior College Athletic Association. A native of Russia, Evgeny says he chose to attend a community college because of the opportunity to work full-time while improving his English and working towards his educational goal. He is captain of the College’s soccer team, a Phi Theta Kappa honors society member, math tutor and a Student Ambassador at the Western Campus.

Some of the other students who graduated this year include:

Tabatha Wade-Collier: A transplant recipient herself, her career goal is to become a transplant nurse. Her organ transplant operation put her in a coma for six months. Through all of the health challenges that she still fights today, she has kept a positive attitude. A resident of Cleveland, she is also a Phi Theta Kappa honors society officer and will be attending Notre Dame College to complete a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

Elizabeth Tilley: This computer science student was named 2011 “Student of the Year” at the Metropolitan Campus. She is also the mother of six children and a grandmother of 14. Elizabeth has been accepted at John Carroll University and will continue her education in computer science and then plans to proceed towards a master’s degree.

Giselle Jarrett: Giselle was named to the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team and served as co-president of the Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She will attend Case Western Reserve University in pursuit of her career goal of earning a Ph.D. and becoming a counseling psychologist.