

Six Tri-C Students Named to All-Ohio Academic Team

Six Cuyahoga Community College students were honored as members of the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team in a luncheon ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium April 28.

The All-Ohio Academic Team program provides statewide recognition and scholarships to outstanding students at Ohio's 23 community colleges. The program is co-sponsored by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC); Phi Theta Kappa, the international honors society for two-year colleges; and funding is made possible through the generous support of donors like Honda of America Mfg., Inc.

Each Ohio community college campus may only nominate two students each year. Nominees must be eligible to graduate during the current academic year and have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.25. Winners are selected on the basis of academic performance, demonstration of leadership, and community service involvement. Winners are ranked as members of First Team, Second Team, or Third Team and receive tiered scholarship awards.

Learn more about Cuyahoga Community College's All-Ohio Academic Team honorees below:



Deanna Clark

Deanna Clark, 29, of Cleveland has been named to the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team, Third Team. Clark is studying Law Enforcement at the Cuyahoga Community College Metropolitan Campus, carries a 3.7 GPA, and intends to transfer to pursue a Bachelors degree. Her career goal is to become the head of security for a school district.

In addition to her studies; Clark works, helps to raise her two teenage nephews, and coaches a 6th – 8th grade girls basketball team at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. She enjoys serving as a mentor to the girls and encouraging them to pursue their education. Clark is also a member of the community college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

Clark says that she chose to attend Tri-C for several reasons, "I am receiving a top notch education at half the price," said Clark. "Also, I believe in the programs that Cuyahoga Community College offers. We have the best professors and administrators hands down."

Angela Mesenburg, 34, of Milan has been named to the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team, Second Team. Mesenburg is studying Social Work and Business at the Cuyahoga Community College Metropolitan Campus, carries a 3.89 GPA, and intends to transfer to pursue a Bachelors degree. Her career goal is to facilitate a women's re-entry center.



Angela Mesenburg

In addition to her studies; Mesenburg works and is a single mother to two teenage children. Mesenburg stays in Cleveland during the week to pursue her education, and commutes to Milan on the weekends to visit her children and family. Mesenburg is also a member of the community college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa; is participating in an independent study project relating to poverty and women in transition; and is pursuing certificates in leadership and foreign interactions through the Tri-C Honors Program.

Mesenburg says she chose to attend a community college because it was more affordable and convenient than other higher education institutions. "There was more flexibility at a community college to fit my fast-pace, busy lifestyle," Mesenburg said. "Tri-C allows me to take on-line classes so that I can be with my children during their summer break, but still attend college full-time."

Giselle Jarrett, 20, of Cleveland Heights has been named to the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team, Third Team. Jarrett is studying Psychology at the Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus and carries a 3.63 GPA. Following completion of her Associate Degree, Jarrett intends to transfer to a four-year college in pursuit of her career goal of earning a Ph.D. and becoming a counseling psychologist.



Giselle Jarrett

Jarrett participates in the Cuyahoga Community College Honors Program and Bridges to Success in the Sciences where she has assisted a researcher in conducting research on Prader-Willi Syndrome. Jarrett also serves as co-president of the Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society.

Jarrett says she chose to attend a community college because she missed the deadline for most college applications while out of the country, and she did not want to wait an entire year to get started in college. While it was not her original plan, Jarrett says that attending community college has worked out well for her, and she would recommend attending to anyone.

Charli Slodov, 43, of Chagrin Falls has been named to the All-Ohio Academic Team, Third Team. Slodov is studying Nursing at the Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus and carries a 3.53 GPA. Slodov intends to transfer to pursue a Bachelors Degree, and her career goal is to become a Registered Nurse.



***Rep. Marlene Anielski (right)
presents a commendation to student
Charli Slodov (left)***

In addition to her studies, Slodov serves on the campus programming board assisting with programs including a Parenting Resource Fair, and Diversity Day. She also volunteers with the Cleveland Food Bank, and serves as public relations secretary for Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society.

Slodov says she chose to attend a community college because it is affordable, conveniently located and offers classes that fit her schedule. "I have had the dream of graduating from Tri-C since I graduated from high school in 1986, which, at that time, seemed unachievable," Slodov said. "Everyone at the college takes time with me and helps me to accomplish my goals, which has given me confidence to graduate with honors."

Slodov was also presented with a commendation from her state representative, Representative Marlene Anielski.

Ahad Shah, 28, of Brecksville has been named to the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team, Second Team. Shah is studying Biology and Conflict Management & Peace Studies at the Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus, carries a 3.94 GPA, and intends to transfer to pursue a Doctorate of Dental Surgery. His career goal is to become an endodontist.



***Rep. Marlene Anielski (right)
presents a commendation to student
Ahad Shah (left)***

In addition to his studies; Shah serves as a mentor to three younger cousins and numerous other children within the Pakistani-American community. He strives to help build mutual understanding between the Pakistani-American community and the majority American culture. Shah is a member of the community college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa; serves as a peer mentor in chemistry and essay writing; participates in the Sustained Dialogue Campus Network; and observes dental procedures at Case Western Reserve University in preparation for his career.

Shah says he chose to attend a community college because it was cost-effective, conveniently located, and offered opportunities to develop social and leadership skills and to work toward academic recognition.

Shah was also presented with a commendation from his state representative, Representative Marlene Anielski.

Evgeny Kasperovich, 24, of Parma has been named to the 2011 All-Ohio Academic Team, First Team. Kasperovich has also been honored nationally as a Bronze Scholar by the Coca-Cola Foundation and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for this honor.

Kasperovich is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree at the Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus and carries a 4.0 GPA. He intends to transfer to a university to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting, and his career goal is to become a great thespian.



Evgeny Kasperovich

In addition to his studies; Kasperovich serves as a Cuyahoga Community College student ambassador, a math peer mentor, and a member of the community college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. Kasperovich also plays on the Cuyahoga Community College soccer team where he has received numerous honors including being named to the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference All-Academic Team and as a National Junior College Athletic Association Distinguished Academic All American.

A native of Russia, Kasperovich says he chose to attend a community college because it provided him the opportunity to work full-time while improving his English through English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, which enabled him to later enroll full-time in higher level coursework. “Attending the community college realistically gave me the opportunity to acquire a quality education at an affordable price,” Kasperovich said. “My academic excellence at Tri-C has earned me recognition from a diverse group of four-year institutions that are now offering me admission.”