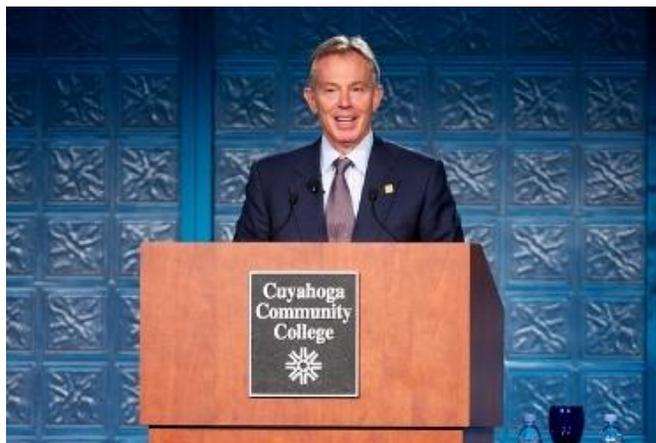


Right Honorable Tony Blair speaks at Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Luncheon

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation presented the Right Honorable Tony Blair, Quartet Representative and former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1997-2007), as keynote speaker at its 2011 Presidential Scholarship Luncheon. The luncheon on Wednesday, October 5, at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, was another sell-out, with more than 1,200 people in attendance.



Proceeds from the Presidential Scholarship Luncheon provide scholarships to Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C[®]) students who might not otherwise be able to access or continue their college education. Since the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation held its first luncheon in 1992, more than \$8.4 million has been raised for student scholarships. Proceeds are distributed to the numerous Tri-C Foundation scholarship funds, including the First Generation Scholarship Fund, Presidential Scholarship Fund, Gap Scholarship Fund and Veterans Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship awarded contributes to the quality of life for all by providing a stronger workforce for the region.

The support generated by the Luncheon is critical, now more than ever. As Northeast Ohio looks forward to economic recovery, it is essential to continue developing a skilled workforce trained in the technologies and growth industries of the new economy. With 85 percent of Tri-C graduates remaining in the region following graduation, our local economy benefits from the education Tri-C provides to students today.

Blair, leader of Britain's Labour Party (1994-2007) and the Member of Parliament for Sedgefield, England (1983-2007), continues to be active in his public life. In his current role as Quartet Representative to the Middle East, Blair is helping the Palestinians prepare for statehood as part of the international community's effort to secure peace.

Additionally, Blair launched the Tony Blair Faith Foundation to promote respect and understanding of, and between, the major religions while making a case for faith as a force for good in the modern world. The Foundation works with Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

Blair also created the Tony Blair Sports Foundation to increase participation in sports by young people, particularly those who are socially excluded. The Foundation hopes to inspire more adults to become trained coaches by providing them access to high-quality nationally-accredited training and by helping match them with the schools and clubs that need them most.

A strong advocate of a values-based, activist and multilateralism foreign policy, Blair is widely credited for his contributions towards assisting the Northern Ireland Peace Process by helping jointly negotiate the Good Friday Agreement and deliver a power-sharing government. He will also continue to be an advocate on issues such as Africa and climate change. Through the African Governance Initiative, Blair is working with a team of his staff on governance projects in Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Liberia regarding policy delivery and attracting investment.

Blair's memoir, *A Journey: My Political Life*, was released in September 2010 and made *The New York Times* best-seller list within a week of its release.

The Presidential Scholarship Luncheon benefits scholarships for Tri-C students. For more information, please call 216-987-4868 or visit www.tri-c.edu/foundation