

Tri-C Receives Federal Upward Bound Grant – Program Works to Improve Ohio’s College-going Rate

The Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Foundation announced Aug. 24 that the College has secured a \$351,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for continuation of its Upward Bound program. The Upward Bound program supports youth who are low-income, potential first-generation college students in building the skills and motivation necessary to complete high school and enter and succeed in a postsecondary education program.

The Department of Education supports multiple initiatives at Cuyahoga Community College focused on student access, student success and programmatic enhancements; and has supported the Upward Bound program since 1989.



“We are proud of this longstanding relationship and what it has done to help area youth access and be successful in higher education,” said Cuyahoga Community College President Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton. “The need to increase the number of students who complete high school and continue on to higher education is significant if we are to have a vibrant regional economy.”

Cuyahoga Community College’s Upward Bound program offers college, career and financial aid counseling; tutoring; college field trips; and test preparation for the OGT, ACT, and SAT tests and serves 87 students at three high schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District: East Tech, Glenville and John Marshall.

Students also attend a six-week summer session – and graduating seniors an eight-week program – to help them transition to college. An after-school program provides activities to promote the importance of postsecondary education, college and career fairs, workshops and job shadowing, tutoring, student and parent workshops, and aid in completing college and financial aid applications.

Christian West participated in the Upward Bound program from 2008 – 2012, and is one of many students to have benefited from the program in its 23 year history. A 2012 East Technical High School graduate, West earned “High Honor Roll”, a 4.36 cumulative grade point average and perfect attendance. He served as the 2012 class president and student ambassador at East Tech, a member of the National Honor Society, the National Society of High School Scholars, Kiwanis Key Club, Closing the Achievement Gap, and the robotics team. He participated in job shadowing opportunities at Case Western Reserve Aerospace and Osborn Engineering, and interned at the Cleveland Botanical Garden’s neighborhood gardening program.

Upon graduation, West was awarded a \$25,000 scholarship to attend Case Western Reserve University, where he plans to major in engineering.

The Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Upward Bound is one of eight TRIO programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

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