



## Tri-C launches Gateway to College Program to help high school dropouts earn diplomas and college credit

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) has received a \$325,000 start-up grant from Gateway to College National Network to implement the Gateway to College program, a nationally recognized dropout prevention and recovery initiative.

Gateway to College is designed for young adults ages 16 to 20 who have dropped out of high school or are significantly behind in credits and unlikely to graduate on time. The program enables them to complete their high school requirements while simultaneously earning college credits.

Tri-C's Gateway program is in partnership with Promise Academy, a charter school sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), which already serves nontraditional students in Cuyahoga County. Students must meet specific criteria for entrance into the program and will be dually enrolled at Promise Academy and Tri-C until they complete their high school diploma. Tuition and books are paid through scholarships for students enrolled in Gateway to College.



The program will enroll its first cohort of 35 students for Fall Semester 2013. Students will be placed into learning communities for their foundation courses in reading, writing, math and college skills. After completing the base courses, students will transition to taking traditional college courses on Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland. Throughout their enrollment in the program, students will receive one-on-one advising and support from resource specialists who act as coaches and mentors.

"We will identify and recruit the ideal students for our program at Cuyahoga Community College," said Dr. JaNice Marshall, vice president of College Pathway Programs. "Our goal is to ensure access to an innovative program designed for a select group of students who progress. These students will complete their high school diploma while gaining college credit."

Students graduate from Gateway to College once they have completed their high school diploma requirements. Nationally, Gateway to College students accrue an average of 33 college credits by the time they graduate from the program, putting them well on their way to earning a college credential.

Cuyahoga Community College is one of 43 community and technical colleges across the country offering the Gateway to College program.