

Tri-C honors more than 1,500 graduates at Fall Commencement Dec. 19

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) held its second annual Fall Commencement Ceremony Dec. 19; honoring 1,596 who petitioned to graduate.

“As these students walk across the stage in celebration of their academic success, they become part of the foundation of educational excellence built over 50 years at Cuyahoga Community College,” said Dr. Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C.

The College also awarded an Honorary Associate of Arts degree in Humane Letters to Morton L. Mandel for his longstanding support of Tri-C. Mandel is chairman and CEO of Parkwood LLC, a private trust company, and also chairman and CEO of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.

Dr. Carol Cartwright, president emeritus of Kent State University, was the commencement speaker. Cartwright’s career has been distinguished by innovative teaching, pioneering research and national leadership.



Tri-C President Alex Johnson, Student Speaker Denise Trzebuckowski and Western Campus President Ron Liss

Denise Trzebuckowski was the student speaker. Trzebuckowski earned her Associate of Applied Science degree in medical laboratory technology. The Parma resident achieved a 3.95 grade point average and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa academic honor society. After graduation, she will work as a medical technician at Parma Community General Hospital.

Read profiles of some of the December 2013 Tri-C graduates below:

Andrea and Charles Cragget



Tonight, a mother and son will graduate together from Cuyahoga Community College. Cleveland residents Andrea Cragget, 49, and her son, Charles Cragget Jr., 22, both will earn their associate degrees. Andrea will claim hers in human services, and Charles will earn his Associate of Arts.

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Alan Henry



Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows the phrase “Can do!” That exclamation captures the attitude of those who wear the uniform for their ability to get the mission done despite obstacles that might be in their way. It also describes the 2013 Cuyahoga Community College Student Veteran of the Year, Alan Henry. [Read more...](#)

Michael Hirschauer



Michael Hirschauer thought a change was in order. The 29-year-old Lakewood resident was working full time as an insurance salesman when it dawned on him that his career stunk. He was sick of sitting in a cramped office all day, barely moving at all. He was tired of feeling like he was not making a difference in people's lives. [Read more...](#)

Qiana McClendon



Qiana McClendon is looking forward to having her life settle down just a bit. The 34-year-old Cleveland resident is a mother of two boys, and juggling her parenting responsibilities with part-time work and a course load has been a tough task for the last two years. [Read more...](#)

Johnnaya Norton



Johnnaya Norton, 21, could be called the poster child for Tri-C. For example, while she was a student at Cleveland Heights High School, she noticed classmates taking classes through Tri-C. "That commercial that said 'Where futures begin' spoke to me then," she said. She has also taken courses at Cleveland State University just because Tri-C faculty taught them.

In addition, Norton has, literally, been featured on Tri-C posters around the Eastern Campus.

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Kristyal Roan



Seven is a magic number for Kristyal Roan. She's been attending Cuyahoga Community College since she graduated from South High School in 2006. And today, after seven years of hard work, dedication and perseverance, Roan is receiving her Associate of Applied Business degree. [Read more...](#)

Eric Rosado



Eric Rosado's path to college wasn't a traditional one. The 37-year-old Cleveland resident and father of three grew up in New York City and graduated from Franklin K. Lane High School – on the border of Brooklyn and Queens – in 1994. He took a couple years off to work before his first stint in college (which lasted only a semester). After that, he worked for a utilities company and picked up side jobs for extra money. [Read more...](#)

Jamie Lynn Turner



Jamie Lynn Turner believes that, throughout her life, people have been there for her. Now, it's time for her to be there for other people. Turner will earn her Associate of Arts degree from Tri-C this month. She will continue her studies at Cleveland State University with the intention of going into social work.

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