



Cuyahoga Community College receives National Science Foundation Grant for youth

Cuyahoga Community College Foundation has secured a new \$1.1 million grant award for Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) from the National Science Foundation for the Youth Technology Academy: STEM Academy for Youth featuring Youth Essential Skills, also called SAY-YES!

Alex Johnson, president of Cuyahoga Community College, said, “We are pleased to partner with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for this innovative project, which is designed to enable high school students to successfully pursue post-secondary STEM studies when they arrive in college, rather than enrolling in remedial coursework. We are grateful to the National Science Foundation for its support of this important work.”



Tri-C will partner with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), focusing on high-risk, underrepresented high school students with the potential to realize high academic achievement and advancement through participation in this innovative STEM-focused program. SAY-YES! will enroll CMSD students in college-level coursework and after-school activities including math, robot programming, youth essential skills training and other technical training. Mentors will assist youth with skills competencies and help them map a clear pathway to pursue their technical/engineering degrees and careers. High school teachers will receive technical training in teaching STEM courses as well.

“This project, which runs from August 2013 through August 2016, will prepare underserved youth for careers in the advanced technological workforce and for transfer to baccalaureate degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM),” said Gloria J. Moosmann, vice president, Resource Development & Tri-C Foundation, “SAY-YES! will provide a transformational experience within the world of robotics, which will galvanize students’ interest in STEM.”

This is the third National Science Foundation award the Tri-C Foundation has secured for the College and its Youth Technology Academy since 2006. Its first award, Robotics Corridor Collaborative from 2006-2009 demonstrated that after-school robotics and math programming is highly successful in motivating high school students to pursue technical and engineering studies. Its second award, Cleveland’s Pathway to Engineering Degrees, started last year with intent to extend the model to include summer activities and to develop a high school to associate degree to bachelor degree academic pathway, or 2+2+2, for technical or engineering degree attainment.

George Bilokonsky, executive director, Technology Academies, and the project manager for the current award, said, “We are truly excited that Cuyahoga Community College is being recognized for its positive impact on our students through our youth technology program. An award from the National Science Foundation is a testimonial to our accomplishment in

identifying the barriers students face while pursuing technical careers and to our success in finding solutions that work.”

Cuyahoga Community College serves more students in grades K through 12 than any other institution of higher learning in Ohio. These programs increase opportunities for youth and assist students in gaining access to higher education. Approximately 10,000 participate in youth and early college programs while in high school.

In 1963, Cuyahoga Community College made history, as more than 3,000 students stood in line to register for classes at Ohio’s first community college. Today, Tri-C is serving more than 60,000 students annually through degree and certificate programs. Tri-C remains Ohio’s largest community college and is celebrating 50 years of providing high-quality, affordable educational programs and services to our multicultural community.