

Inauguration

Dr. Alex Johnson was officially installed as the fourth president of Cuyahoga Community College during a meaningful and heartfelt ceremony in November.

Dr. Alex Johnson was installed as the fourth president of Cuyahoga Community College during a ceremony Nov. 21 in the Metropolitan Campus Auditorium. Pomp, circumstance, humor and emotion marked the occasion.

"A Tri-C education must not just be about learning how to weld, or care for patients, or manage a business or even to succeed in college. It must be about those things, but a Tri-C education must go beyond them," Dr. Johnson said. "We have to be about the business of preparing successful citizens who situate themselves in the larger context of our society."

Dr. Johnson fought back tears at one point during his talk.

College faculty, administration, board members, students and alumni; representatives from other schools and college organizations; politicians; Dr. Johnson's family; media and general supporters attended. The inauguration was also broadcast at locations across the College.

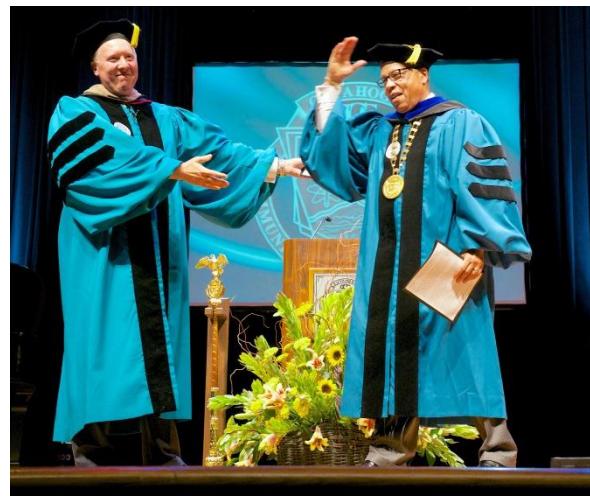
Dr. Johnson outlined five priorities for the College: focusing on completion with a continued effort toward educational access; working more closely with employers to provide degrees and certificates that have labor market value; communicating the College's message in effective and innovative ways; making the most effective use of resources for the benefit of students; and nurturing and growing the College's legacy of collaboration and community engagement.

"Under Dr. Johnson's leadership, this college will become a magnet for talent," said Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, Tri-C president emeritus, referring to potential students, faculty, staff and administration.

Dr. Carol Cartwright, president emeritus of Kent State University and Dr. Johnson's doctoral adviser at Penn State, said, "Even back then, he was an innovator and a prudent risk taker."

Dr. Walter Bumphus, president of the American Association of Community Colleges, sees a change in leadership at colleges nearly every day. "I don't think I have seen a finer transition of leadership than between Dr. Thornton and Dr. Johnson," he said.

Additional greetings were given by: Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey, Ken Surratt on behalf of Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Ohio State Senator and Cuyahoga Community College Alumna Nina Turner, Cuyahoga Community College Board Student Scholar Sharon Clark, and Cuyahoga Community College Faculty



Board of Trustees Chairman Jerry Kelsheimer, left, presents newly inaugurated College President Dr. Alex Johnson to the audience.

Senate Chairperson Mary Hovanec. The invocation was offered by the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Pastor Emeritus, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. The benediction was offered by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chalker, Senior Pastor, University Circle United Methodist Church.

Dr. Johnson took over as president of Cuyahoga Community College July 1.

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