



Listening Session Summary  
Community and Strategic Partners  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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# Listening Session Summary

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## Question 1

Reflecting on our Vision: Reflecting on the context and Dr. Baston's message just shared, what stands out to you as the most essential outcomes Tri-C must achieve in the next five years? What challenges should we be especially mindful of?

## Summary

Tri-C should focus on building transparency, community trust, and partnerships while sharing resources and data. They need to ensure course offerings align with market demand and support students facing life challenges.

Essential outcomes include relevancy of curriculum, targeted recruitment for diversity, and easier access to information and campuses.

Challenges include political climate, competition for time and money, and providing support for student attendance.

Tri-C should also strengthen the pipeline from high school to college, offer fast-track programs for high-paying jobs, and align with the County's economic development strategy.

## Responses

### **Access and Transportation**

Transportation, access to multiple campuses  
Update website for easier use & navigation

### **Affordability and Financial Aid**

Affordability  
Affordability/clear understanding of financial aid  
clearly communicate financial burden vs pay off  
Federal impacts on student aid  
Financial / Cost if a student is still exploring what they want to be/do.  
Financial aid, being able to assist the navigation of financial resources

### **Community Engagement**

Being aware of multiple entry points to engage, recruit, enroll students  
Identifying partners where there is alignment, gaps among institutions/organizations across the county  
Increase community engagement  
increased community engagement  
Make it easier for community partners to make warm hand off referrals, a no wrong door approach  
Outreach  
True community partnerships

### **Curriculum Relevance**

Challenges to mindful of: Feelings that college isn't useful to 1 in 5 millennials  
Managing occupation and student career interest with market demand  
Relevancy of curriculum programs and majors  
Targeted recruitment Diversity Equity and Inclusion (political climate)

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There needs to be a clear understanding/explanation of the importance and relevance of higher education in this current culture

### **Education Initiatives**

Alignment with the County economic development strategy

Entrepreneurship fast track programs and 2 year degree programs

Fast ways to gain entry to high paying jobs

Nimble. Be able to identify a need and allow organizations to skill up.

Strengthen the pipeline from high school to Tri-c across the county

### **Other**

exploration!

Targeted Programs per demographic Interest

### **Partnerships and Collaborations**

Community Partnerships which includes shared resources

Partnerships

what are the partnerships with the County employees?

### **Student Support Challenges**

Challenge- Meeting the Enrollment Numbers

Challenge- political climate

Challenge: Support, incentivize student attendance

Childcare

competition for time and money

The despair that students feel around attending secondary school

### **Student Support Services**

Challenges to be mindful of: how students can still achieve when life gets in the way.

How is Tri C determining course offerings?

Hunger/SDOH

MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL internally

Most Essential Outcome to achieve: Widespread relevancy

### **Trust and Transparency**

Community trust

Shared data

Transparency

Trust students, and partners

### **Workforce Development**

Affordability to access education/workforce

Consistent recruitment of non-traditional students ex: older, non-high school grads, etc

How to remain relevant into prepare workforce and leaders of tomorrow.

Most Essential outcomes: being useful to local employers

Most essential outcomes: preparing students for meaningful work.

Sustainable wages

Sustained Enrollment

Trades/Skills

Variety of workforce Training Certifications offered

Workforce development partnerships

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## Question 2

Reflecting on our Mission: What unique strengths or characteristics does Tri-C have that differentiate it from other local educational options that might give our students a competitive advantage and create social impact in our community?

## Summary

Tri-C offers diverse educational opportunities including part-time faculty with industry experience, credit transfer programs, workforce training certifications, and affordable tuition.

It has strong community engagement, partnerships with employers and educational institutions, and programs for all ages, including high school students.

Tri-C provides flexible learning options, including online courses, and fosters a culture of lifelong learning with initiatives like the Jazz Fest and arts programs.

Its unique strengths include affordability, practical training, and strong community and industry connections.

## Responses

### **Accessibility and Affordability in Learning**

ability to dive in, not commit to a certain track/major  
ability to get credits towards college while in high school  
access- sports  
Access-online classes  
Affordability  
flexibility  
Flexibility and course offerings.  
Flexibility in accessibility  
keeping the lowest cost of tuition in the state  
lower cost  
Mandel- Human studies, affordable and transferrable  
Most cost effective, quickest path to employment  
music programs for grade school & HS students  
relationship with CSU  
Scholarship opportunities  
summer programs for young kids

### **Arts and Culture**

arts mastery program  
Jazz Fest - recruitment of students & dollars

### **Community Engagement and Partnerships**

Access Centers  
Collaborations and partnerships with industry stakeholders  
Community based. Seem to know "us." Great partnerships

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Community engagement  
Culture & Arts to the community  
Established partnerships with non-profits  
Hispanic Council  
Location- close to surrounding communities  
Meets students where they are  
Partnerships with other nonprofits  
partnerships with workforce entities to fill staffing shortages  
Responsiveness to the business community  
Strong relationship with Greater Cleveland Works (referrals &);  
Tri-c Jazz Fest

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Dance program that fosters multiculturalism  
diverse faculty  
inclusion

### **Education Programs**

Credit for credit transfer program  
High quality - high school students access  
Kid summer camps - exposure to a college campus  
Programs that serve throughout the life span and also are different articulation channels - like kids summer camp  
Tri-C Foundation- Scholarship Opportunities

### **Other**

3 campuses  
Adaptability - willingness to try things to bring people in  
Corporate College?  
cross pollination across campuses  
Intramural sports  
Multiple locations?  
Name-branding  
Ohio Adult Diploma!  
Providing resources, navigating in address social needs  
Relationships with CSU/CWRU  
Tremendous foundation in place. Can build upon an already strong organization

### **Workforce Training and Education**

adjunct faculty are often practitioners  
affordable tuition  
Being able to gain useful skills, direction  
Certification Programs  
considered a more direct path to employment  
Corporate college fostering life long learning  
diverse faculty  
Educations across the lifespan  
fits into working lives

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Flexibility; Hometown Pride; Prep for work in our economic footprint.  
Highschool students who get to experience  
NE Ohio Companies/manufacturing  
nimble capacity for new programming  
Offering short term credentials to in demand jobs  
offers training/certification in skills needed in the region  
Online courses  
part time faculty means they are often working in field  
practitioners teach  
short term relevant certifications  
Strong connection to employers  
Transfer program  
Variety of workforce training certifications  
Various Trade Programs  
Workforce training

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### Question 3

Reflecting on our Mission: What skills, knowledge or competencies do you think are most critical for students entering today's job market, either immediately after leaving Tri-C or after further education?

### Summary

Critical skills for students entering today's job market include civic engagement, effective communication, digital literacy, time management, social media and AI consumption/production, cross-cultural communication, acceptance of responsibility, general information literacy, career advancement strategies, self-advocacy, and proper etiquette.

Additionally, having a mentor, presenting oneself well, and possessing interviewing skills are essential.

### Responses

#### **Arts and Financial Literacy**

Arts based programming studio and performing arts

#### **Civic Engagement**

being part of a civil society / citizenship

Civic information and civic engagement

Civics

Managing civic engagement and social media

#### **Communication Skills**

Acceptance of responsibility for actions

communication

Communication Skills

Cross-cultural communication

How to present yourself, ask questions

Interpersonal communications

Interviewing skills

Listening and comprehension skills

Openness to genuinely listen to different perspectives

Speaking the King's English!!!

Telephone and e-mail etiquette

#### **Critical Thinking**

Ability to fact check and discern information

ambiguity tolerance

Being able to ask why, contribute to solutions

critical thinking

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Critical thinking skills

Learning problem solving skills

#### **Digital Literacy**

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Ability to learn technology quickly

Digital literacy

General information literacy. Quality of information

Healthy social media and AI consumption/production

Social media/AI class

### **Interpersonal Skills**

Ability to pivot.

Collaboration, team building

Collaboratively working

Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution

Managing differences

Problem Solving

Social tolerance

working collaboratively

### **Job Readiness**

Ability to work on your own

Etiquette and skills of getting the job you want!

Having a mentor to guide you

Resourceful

Retention strategies, career laddering and career advancement

Self advocacy

solutions oriented

Teaching the value of etiquette of getting the job you want.

Time management

### **Personal Development**

Acceptance of critical feedback

An understanding of Society

Arts-based education

Dependability/Work Ethic

Emotional maturity

Executive functioning skills

Mental wellness, balance

Professionalism

Resourcefulness

The ability to learn, unlearn, and relearn

Understanding benefits

### **Professional Development Skills**

Delegation

Entrepreneurship

Listening skills

Navigating benefits cliff

Negotiation

Problem Solving

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What job trainings / continued education they may need & how to be up to date

### **Professional Skills**

Budgeting

How much they should get paid as a new grad

How to apply for a job

How to find a job

How to negotiate

How to write a resume

Initiative. Going beyond the job descrip

Interview skills

Networking

Normal expectations of a job like showing up on time, not talking back to supervisors etc

Professional development and upskilling (certificates and credentials)

Professional development and upskilling.

technical/vocational skills

What job pre-screenings may look like

### **Resiliency**

Being professional as defined by today's standards (clean and neat)

Creative thinking

curiosity

Recognizing burnout

Resiliency

resiliency

### **Soft Skills and Interpersonal Communication**

Encouraging Curiosity

Followership

How to accept feedback

Learning how to give and receive feedback

living financial/accounting skills

Professionalism

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### Question 4

Reflecting on our Values: What institutional values might we need to nurture or develop further to meet the challenges ahead?

#### Summary

Emphasizing sustainability and social responsibility prepares students to think critically while contributing to the county's economic vibrancy. Continued economic partnerships and transparency are essential.

Ensuring career pathways, internal progression, and affordable education demonstrates a commitment to excellence.

Developing plans for students to manage college debt, promoting equity, and maintaining diverse, inclusive programs are vital.

Transparency remains a key institutional value.

#### Responses

### Strategies to Thrive

What unmet needs might our community be asking of Tri-C that, if we met, might be a game changer?

#### Summary

The community is asking for paid internships, psychological safety, social worker support, financial literacy, free associate and bachelor's degrees, free devices and internet, improved Tri-C access centers, free transportation, childcare, civic information literacy, and streamlined enrollment for short-term certificates and training.

#### Responses

##### **Community Engagement**

Childcare

free transportation to school

improve tri-c access centers in the community by hiring staff that are from those communities

transportation

Transportation Connectors between Campus sites

##### **Education Access**

Bachelors Degree

Free Associate Degree

free associate degrees

free devices, internet and digital literacy to obtain online classes

##### **Internship Opportunities**

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internships

paid internships

**Other**

Civic information literacy and civic information

make enrollment in short term certificates/ training sub 15 minutes

**Student Support Services**

Confirmation of belonging and psychological safety

financial literacy support

social workers to help students navigate tri-c and social needs.