

# Listening Session Summary

## Tri-C Board of Visitors

### Wednesday, March 19, 2025

### Breakout Group 1

**Instructions:**

- Assign 1 Breakout
- Take the first 20 minutes to identify individual and shared institutional responsibilities on sticky notes.
- Use the next 10 minutes to discuss the individual and shared responsibilities on sticky notes.

**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?

**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?

**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?

**4 Reflecting on our values...**  
 What institutional values might we need to nurture or develop further to meet the challenges ahead?

### Breakout Group 2

**Instructions:**

- Assign 1 Breakout
- Take the first 20 minutes to identify individual and shared institutional responsibilities on sticky notes.
- Use the next 10 minutes to discuss the individual and shared responsibilities on sticky notes.

**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?

**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?

**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?

**4 Reflecting on our values...**  
 What institutional values might we need to nurture or develop further to meet the challenges ahead?



Add a sticky note with your **NAME** and how many **YEARS** you've been connected with Tri-C

**4 Double-click on the canvas to add a sticky note.**

- Stomp 5 years
- 3 Years
- 6 years?
- 30 years
- 19 years
- over 15 years
- 17 years
- Hilton Smith 42 years
- 32 years
- 17 years
- Since I took a summer physics course in high school in the last century!
- Since I took a summer physics course in high school in the last century, Belmont County

### Strategies to Thrive

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

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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 aims to be the path to a successful future by introducing itself early to students and parents as a top educational option. The vision includes strategic planning that is ambitious enough to position Tri-C as a leader and convener, helping move Cuyahoga County from poverty to prosperity.

Tri-C should cater to older students for re-tooling, build its brand as affordable and outstanding, and communicate its educational value effectively.

The college must partner with businesses to develop necessary skills, address declining literacy rates, engage students with lower scores, and increase high school graduate enrollment. Ensuring students feel positive about their college experience and see a clear pathway from coursework to employment is crucial.

The focus is on providing great service and transforming lives, not just enrollment growth, with measurable positive impacts for both the community and students.

### Responses

#### **Other**

Effectively communicating the value proposition.

Mindful of the ever-changing needs of youth and the future of work.

Students need to see a clear path from coursework to employment,

#### **Student Enrollment and Impact**

Enrollment growth not goal - great service and spectacular experience for those here. Transform the lives that are here.

Getting more high school graduates to enroll. How do we keep them encouraged and feeling positive about the college experience.

Hilton Smith Recruitment of students who need chances and who can move to higher heights in the educational process

I think we should keep in mind how students say college makes them feel. How do we change that? how do we keep them encouraged?

Job placements in good jobs or additional educational opportunities

Positive measurable impact for the community as well as students

Students must see a clear pathway between coursework and employment

#### **Tri-C Educational Vision**

Be in the homes of students early on because of the fact that they need to know Tri-C early and see it as a wonderful option -- their parents too (Hilton Smith)

Building the Tri-C brand as an affordable and outstanding educational opportunity

Challenge: Literacy rates are declining nationally. How can Tri-C engage those with lower reading and math scores to connect directly to credit and non-credit coursework. Not developmental education.

Effectively communicating the value proposition of a Tri-C education.

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how does the future happen "through Tri-C" The College needs to partner with businesses and other stakeholder to continuously develop the skills people need to adapt and find a place in an economy that is being transformed  
Most compelling to me was the notion that strategic planning has not correlation to performance. That suggests a vision should be wildly audacious to truly take Tri-C to the level as a leader and convener moving Cuy county from poverty to prosperity

Position Tri-C as a place for older students to re-tool.

Visioning Tri-C as THE path to a successful future.

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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 is inclusive and open to all students, offering a diverse curriculum and connections with major employers. It boasts numerous campuses and a wide variety of courses, emphasizing affordability and career certifications to help students advance.

Non-credit offerings serve as entry points, enhancing its value proposition and community impact.

### Responses

#### **College Features**

(Hilton Smith) Tri-C is open to all students, regardless of background, and all are accepted  
Connections with dozens of major employers in the city  
Job placement.

The Big 3: Breathtaking # of campuses and access points + very wide variety of course offerings. Can't think of anything we don't teach. COST.

Tri-C offers a richly diverse curriculum

#### **Other**

Scale

#### **Value Proposition**

affordability

certifications to help students of all ages build their careers and move into higher paying jobs

Non-credit offerings as an entry point to the college

value proposition

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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 strong communication and literacy skills, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, the capacity to apply new skills and knowledge, resilience and adaptability, teamwork and professionalism, and effective use of technology.

### Responses

#### **Communication and literacy skills**

strong communication skills

Strong literacy skills (all kinds of literacy).

Writing, communications skills

#### **Critical thinking and problem-solving skills**

Ability to think critically and problem solve.

critical thinking

Critical thinking skills

critical thinking skills.

Problem solving, critical thinking and something "technical" that they can apply in their career.

#### **Technology and adaptability**

ability to activate what they learned/use new skills

ability to use technology effectively

Resilience, adaptability, creating lifelong learners.

Technology (computers/cell phones)

Working in teams; professionalism; problem-solving with synthetic intelligence

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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

The Board of Visitors emphasized the importance of responsible AI use, fostering curiosity, and enhancing collaboration and partnerships to engage more students.

They highlighted inclusion and equity, optimism with a plan, and creating a culture that drives necessary change.

Additionally, they stressed the need for embracing risk, accepting 'learning failure,' and the ability to take risks and try new things.

#### Responses

##### **AI and Technology**

Responsible use of AI

##### **Collaboration and Partnership**

collaboration and partnership to an amazing level. leverage to bring more students into the fold. partners as access points and make the experience even more spectacular  
curiosity

What do you do with inclusion and equity??? We say keep the concept with other words.

##### **Innovation and Change**

ability to take risks and try new things

Creating an internal culture that leads the institution to necessary change.

Hope= optimism with a plan

Willingness to embrace risk and accept "learning failure" safe to fail.

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## Strategies to Thrive

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

### Summary

Tri-C could significantly impact the community by preparing more students for high-paying, in-demand jobs, upskilling current workers for career mobility, engaging the unemployed and underemployed, addressing literacy issues, and leading innovation in education through initiatives like Elder University.

### Responses

#### **Career Development**

Engage the unemployed and underemployed

preparing significantly more students for higher paying, high demand jobs

upskilling incumbent workers to drive career mobility

#### **Education Initiatives**

addressing literacy

Elder University

Lead innovation in education.