

# Student Success Stories

## Derek Johnson

Tri-Rivers/Marion Technical College Engineering Graduate 2006; BS Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University

Currently the **ENGINEERING COORDINATOR** for FT Precision who recently trained personnel at Tri-Rivers' RAMTEC.



*I have received only positive feedback from our personnel who attended the three training sessions. From a business standpoint, we are already receiving payback from our investment due to the increased number of individuals recovering robots and eliminating downtime associated with recovery.*



Local Business Owner Quote:

*As a local business owner, I see a need to continue to teach a trade to young adults so they can enter the job market upon graduation. Over the past few years, Tri-Rivers has positioned itself to provide this need with the necessary technology.*

Eric Park, president, Park Enterprise Construction Co. Inc.



## Donovan Veeley

Digital Media & Entertainment  
2013 Graduate

*My Tri-Rivers instructor gave me the confidence to take my design talent to a whole new level. I continued my education at the School of Advertising Art. I'm now working for Signature4.com.*

**FACT:** Donovan is an award-winning **DESIGNER**. He designed our 40th Anniversary logo!



## Kai Davidson

Criminal Justice Graduate

*I received training, along with multiple certifications for my career field. I use the skills I learned at Tri-Rivers on a daily basis.*

**FACT:** Kai was named the 2015 *Civilian of the Year* by the Marion Sheriff's Department where she is a Dispatcher. She completed her basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and her Basic Peace Officer Training Program.



## Scott Gould

Engineering Technologies/  
Robotics & Advanced Manufacturing  
Technology Education Collaborative  
(RAMTEC) 2015 Graduate

*I started building my future at Tri-Rivers RAMTEC. As one of the first high school students in the nation to earn FANUC certification, I got a tremendous jump start on my career.*

**FACT:** Scott is a highly skilled problem solver. He is currently working at Honda and going to school at Marion Technical College.

# Tri-Rivers Events

## June 6-8

Tri-Rivers RAMTEC Summer Advanced Vex Camp (details and registration at [ramtecohio.com/vex](http://ramtecohio.com/vex))

## June 7-9

Tri-Rivers RAMTEC Summer Beginners Vex Camp (details and registration at [ramtecohio.com/vex](http://ramtecohio.com/vex))

## June 9

**8 AM-7 PM** Great Start (for New Students & Their Parents)

## June 10

**7 PM** Adult Nursing Graduation at the Palace Theatre in Downtown Marion

## August 9

**5:30-6:30 PM** Level 1 Student Orientation (for Parents & Students)

## 6:30-7:30 PM

Level 2 Students may pick up 2016-2017 schedules

## August 16

**8:15 AM** First Day of Class for All Students

## Earth Day Celebration

Tri-Rivers Community Service and Leadership activities are part of the Tri-Rivers curriculum. Along with the recent Earth Day activities, Tri-Rivers students have been busy this year participating in Make A Difference Day, and providing Services For Those Who Served for area veterans, along with dozens of other projects.

## Vex Summer Camps popular with area youth.



## Our Address:

**Tri-Rivers Career Center & Center for Adult Education**  
2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road  
Marion, OH 43302

## Our Mission:

Our mission is to prepare all secondary and adult students to contribute, advance and succeed in the 21st Century workforce, to be responsible family and community members and to embrace life-long learning.

## Our Promise:

Tri-Rivers promises to provide high quality, efficient technical education with fiscal responsibility, academic accountability and technical advancement.

The *Tri-Rivers Career Communicator* is published by the Superintendent's Office at Tri-Rivers Career Center, 2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road, Marion, OH 43302. It is mailed to residences in school districts served by the Career Center—Cardington, Elgin, Pleasant, River Valley, Ridgedale, North Union, Mt. Gilead, Highland, Marion Harding. Inquiries should be directed to the Career Communicator editor at 740-389-4681, x7409.



Digital Media & Entertainment students celebrate Tri-Rivers 40th Anniversary.

*It is the policy of Tri-Rivers Career Center and Center For Adult Education that educational recruitment, programs, and activities are provided without regard to race, religion, age, sex, color, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, national or ethnic origin, or political affiliation.*

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**Tri-Rivers Career Center & Center for Adult Education**  
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Marion, OH 43302



# Tri-Rivers Career COMMUNICATOR

NON-PROFIT  
Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Marion, OH  
Permit #26



A school where you are  
**ALLOWED to, INSPIRED to, and EXPECTED to**

*Be Amazing*  
Phone: 740-389-4681

Student first and Last Name  
Number and Street  
Student City and State Zip



## New! Health Careers Academy Students now have new and enhanced options with the creation of a Health Careers Academy at Tri-Rivers Career Center.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, of the 30 fastest growing occupations in the entire labor market, about half are jobs in the health care fields. These are jobs that pay well and offer students who want to work directly or indirectly with patients many exciting options.

"Tri-Rivers Health Careers Academy will prepare students for employment in exciting and satisfying careers and also prepare them to continue their education at two and four-year colleges with college credits and industry recognized credentials," according to Dr. Emeline Kelly, director of Nursing for Tri-Rivers Center For Adult Education. Kelly created the high school curriculum so students could gain an important foundation of knowledge and skills for health care careers.

The Academy offers additional industry recognized certifications, work-based learning, more college credits and if they continue on into Tri-Rivers Center For Adult Education's Practical Nursing they will have completed prerequisites and have advanced standing.

**"We are preparing students for careers that are in high demand."**



Because Health Care is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the United States, we believe the addition of a Health Careers Academy will serve our area well, sai Dr. Kelly. "We are preparing students for careers that are in high demand."

**More information is available at [tririvers.com](http://tririvers.com).**



## A Message from The Superintendent



This year as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Tri-Rivers Career Center and Center For Adult Education, I want to thank you. It is through your help that we continue to enrich the communities we serve. Having a thriving Career Center ensures that we continue to graduate productive people ready for the work force.

You can be proud of your Career Center's fine history and its many high-achieving alumni. In this newsletter we recognize three of those individuals with 2016 Outstanding Alumni awards. Since starting this award in 1996, Tri-Rivers has honored 63 individuals and there are hundreds more we could recognize.

Nearly 90 percent of our students go on to get a job, go to college, enter the military or earn an apprenticeship. It's not unusual for you to see graduates from our programs working in fields ranging from nursing and patient care to welding, robotics, public safety and paramedicine. These are vital roles being filled in our area by graduates of Tri-Rivers.

We have seen a trend in our country where good jobs go unfilled because there's a lack of skilled workers who have learned in structured, hands-on programs like ours. Through programs like RAMTEC, Tri-Rivers works directly with businesses and corporations in the region, like Honda and Whirlpool, to train students to meet the demands of today's job market.

For 40 years, Tri-Rivers has been a proud partner in the communities we serve. Your support enables us to maintain quality programs and facilities ensuring our students have the latest training, equipment and skills necessary to meet the needs of area employers for the next 40 years.

Seeing is believing! Many of you attended our anniversary events and toured through the Career Center. If you missed these opportunities, I invite you to visit Tri-Rivers and I'll give you or your group a personal tour.

Sincerely,

Charles Speelman  
Superintendent  
[cspeelman@tririvers.com](mailto:cspeelman@tririvers.com)

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## Letter from Mike Porter Mt. Gilead Mayor

My daughter received her LPN degree through Tri-Rivers adult program. These options can get a student into the workforce more quickly.

Many changes have taken place over the years in course offerings to make sure current needs in the workforce are being met.

## Congratulations

to **Tri-Rivers' Chelsie Brenzo**,  
elected the **SkillsUSA Ohio State**  
**Parliamentarian. Quite an honor!!**  
**We are proud of you!**



## Welding is for females, too!

When you think of careers in welding, you oftentimes think about careers for males; however, three female students at Tri-Rivers are proving that's a myth.

Soon to be seniors, Dakota Crum(Cardington), Andrea DePolo (Cardington), and Brookelyn Wolfe (North Union) are thriving in Obra Horn's welding class at Tri-Rivers. In fact, he says females make great welders because they pay more attention to detail and the dexterity in their hands and fine motor skills help them excel in the field.

These young women are discussing plans for college, apprenticeships and continuing in the welding field—exciting futures!

Six more females will be joining these young women next year in the program.



Junior Welding students Brookelyn Wolfe, Andrea DePolo, and Dakota Crum.

## 2016 Outstanding Alumni Recipients



Carey Rhoades, Vince Reed and Tonya Boyd were honored at the recent Annual Board Dinner.

### Tonya Boyd

"The Career Passport I earned at Tri-Rivers laid the foundation for my future."

Tonya Boyd, an Outstanding Career Center Alumnus, graduated from Tri-Rivers Career Center in 1993 in the Accounting Computer Technology program. While a high school student, she was named the Outstanding Senior of the Year.

Boyd attributes her success to her Career Tech education at Tri-Rivers. She said, "The Career Passport I earned at Tri-Rivers laid the foundation for my future."

Boyd continued her education at Marion Technical College where she earned an Associate of Applied Business Degree. She then obtained her Business Management Degree from the Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Eventually she earned her State of Ohio School Treasurer's license.

She served as assistant treasurer for River Valley Schools and the Cardington Local School District. In July 2015 she accepted the position of treasurer for the Crestline Exempted Village School District. She continues to live in Marion and is active in the River Valley Schools where her son attends; she assists with events and fundraising.

Tri-Rivers began honoring Outstanding Alumni in 1996. The purpose of the awards is to recognize and honor those graduates who, through their performance and achievements, reflect Tri-Rivers' mission to prepare students to contribute and be responsible community members. Seeing the success of these individuals, helps our current students establish goals for the future.

For more information and to view the application, go to <http://tririvers.com/high-school/general-information/alumni/>. The application may be turned in any time during the year.

### Carey Rhoades

She joined the inaugural LPN to RN Transitions program. Tri-Rivers is one of the few career centers in the nation to offer this program.

Carey Rhoades was the Adult Education's outstanding alumnus. She was recognized for fulfilling Tri-Rivers mission of "being a responsible community member and embracing learning as a life-long process."

Rhoades began her journey at Tri-Rivers in 2005 in the Public Safety Services program where she became a certified Emergency Medical Technician. At the same time, she was pursuing her studies to become a nurse. In 2006 she completed the Tri-Rivers Practical Nursing program and passed her NCLEX-PN on her first attempt.

However, Rhoades' had a desire to continue to grow in her chosen field. She joined the inaugural LPN to RN Transitions program. Tri-Rivers is one of the few career centers in the nation to offer this program. In 2009 she earned her license as a Registered Nurse.

She is currently the Director of the Orchard Park Facility in Bucyrus. She gives back to Tri-Rivers by setting up clinical sites at her facility and serving as a preceptor for Tri-Rivers LPN to RN program.

### Vince Reed

Vince gives back by working with youth at the area Juvenile Detention Center and Rushmore Academy.

Vince Reed, an Outstanding Alumnus is a 1987 graduate of the Marketing program. Vince has excelled in his field by consistently being a confident presence in business settings. He has worked in customer messaging, sales leadership, and market development.

Through the years he has worked for companies such as Xerox, ACCO Brands Corp, Konica Minolta Business Solutions, Waste Management, Healthspot and currently he is living and working in Marion for HPM North America.

Vince is a dynamic individual who earns lasting relationships based on mutual respect. He utilizes those relationships to drive revenue through a multitude of sales channels. He also gives back by working with youth at the area Juvenile Detention Center and Rushmore Academy.

Vince was a leader as a student and has continued to be a leader and an outstanding professional in his field.

## TRCC/Lautenslager Distinguished Service

**Don Boger and Bill Karcher were honored at the Annual Spring Board Dinner as the 2016 Tri-Rivers/Lautenslager Distinguished Service recipients.**

"Since Tri-Rivers is celebrating 40 years, it is the perfect time to honor Don Boger, who has been Culinary Arts and the cafeteria's food sales rep since the Career Center opened in 1976," said Sheila Hamm, Culinary Arts Instructor. "Over the years Don has talked to my students about professionalism, job opportunities in the industry, dressing for the job, and being positive.

Boger said, "I love coming through the doors of Tri-Rivers. People smile at you in the hallways, greet you, and the students are always respectful. There is so much educating that goes on in this building.



Don Boger, center, receives a 2016 Tri-Rivers/Lautenslager Distinguished Service Award from Culinary Arts Instructor Sheila Hamm and Superintendent Charles Speelman. Bill Karcher, who was unable to attend, was also honored.

When I walk under the sign that says 'Be Amazing' I can truly say the school is amazing."

Karcher, a retired Tri-Rivers Director, who was unable to attend the dinner, was recognized for serving on the Cosmetology and

Veterinary Science Advisory Committees, donating time to Cooks Camp, judging local SkillsUSA and FFA Contests, serving as the master of ceremonies for the annual Cosmetology Shear Class Show/ Dinner.

"Even with Bill's heavy workload in retirement, he's always willing to help students and staff at Tri-Rivers," said Jodi Rogers, his former administrative assistant.

The first Distinguished Service Award was presented in 1993 to Jack Lautenslager, who spearheaded the efforts to pass the original levy that provided the funds to build the Career Center that opened in 1976. These awards are presented in his memory to individuals or groups who donate their time, resources and talents to make Tri-Rivers successful.

## Three Pathways to Earn Your High School Diploma

In a continually changing global economy, colleges and businesses expect more knowledge and skills from Ohio graduates. To match these high expectations, Tri-Rivers is making sure that teens leave high school ready to succeed.

**There are now two components of graduation requirements: credits and assessments.**

The credit component requires all students to successfully complete a minimum of 20 high school credits—(local boards can increase this amount.) These credit requirements have not changed from the class of 2014.

The assessment component provides teens three ways to be eligible for a high school diploma. He or she must minimally meet one of the three options to earn an Ohio diploma.

### OPTION 1:

At TRI-RIVERS—in-demand industry credential & passing WorkKeys

At Tri-Rivers teens can earn their graduation points by attaining a state approved, industry-recognized credential or group of credentials in a single career field and a workforce readiness score on WorkKeys, a nationally recognized job skills assessment or

### OPTION 2:

Points on state tests

Earn points using seven end-of-course state tests in English 1 & 2, Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, American History and American Government over four years of high school, or

### OPTION 3:

College readiness score on national test

Earn scores in English language arts and mathematics on a national college admissions test or tests, like ACT or SAT, that indicate the student can do college-level work without needing to take remedial classes.

The assessment component provides more flexibility than in previous years to reach graduation. You can find more information about graduation requirements by meeting with school counselor(s) and at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov); enter Graduation Requirements in the search box.