

Outstanding Alumni 2020-2021

Each year Tri-Rivers recognizes Outstanding Alumni who have achieved career success and are outstanding citizens. They are Tri-Rivers' Success Stories.



Doug Shawver—Building Trades 1990. Carpenter Foreman with the George J Igel Company. While working for George Igel, Doug received a BX Craftsmanship Award for the cast-in-place concrete stairs added to the north and south sides of Cunz Hall at The Ohio State University. He has also earned countless training certificates during his career. He is also president of the Board of Public Affairs in LaRue and volunteers on many projects in and around LaRue. He is also a great supporter of Tri-Rivers in general and has been a supporter of the Construction Trades Academy since the beginning. Doug always says that Tri-Rivers changed his life forever in a good positive way. He said, "If it wasn't for Tri-Rivers, I wouldn't be where I am today."



Gwyn Trihaft McKinniss, Executive Secretary 1979. Administrative Assistant for Marion County Family Court for four years and the Fiscal Officer since 2013. Gwyn has been a legal secretary for 30 years performing all aspects of Law Office Administration, including bookkeeping, accounting, document preparation, tax preparation, case management, client consultation and confidentiality. Gwyn manages a budget which exceeds \$3 million dollars for a multi-jurisdiction court, including a juvenile detention center. She is responsible for supervising all payroll, withholding, expenditure and benefits management for employees including maintenance of confidential personnel files. She supervises fiscal employees and conducts evaluations and coordinates all aspects of court finances with county departments, including the Marion County Commissioners, Auditor and Treasurer.



Chris Jenner, Graphic Printing 1993. Owner, Jenner's Plumbing. Chris has always been a great asset to the community and is always willing to help other people. He has worked in the plumbing and HVAC Industry from 1993 to present. He started managing the marketing—using his graphic design training to update logos, materials, and advertising. He also added social media to the mix. In 2014, he took over the business as the co-owner/operator of A-1 Plumbing and Heating. In 2021 he started his own company, Jenner's Plumbing. Chris is a wonderful representative of the MarionMade™ concept. He offers great customer service and genuinely cares for his customers.



Julia Doty, Office Education Cooperative 1980. Service Coordinator at Seton Square in Marion. Julia has used the skills she learned at Tri-Rivers to not only enhance her family life, but also the community. After graduation she worked in her field. She was a legal secretary for a local law firm for 20 years. In her current position Julia earned the Professional Service Coordinator Certification through The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Office of Geriatrics and Interprofessional Aging Studies. At Seton Square she helps residents to access services available in the community and designs programs and services to meet their needs. She also gives back to the community by serving as a mass lector at her church, assisting with Sunday School for young children, working as a poll worker for the Marion County Board of Elections, and attending quarterly social worker round tables.



Ashley Kube, RN, is a nurse leader and nurse educator in our community. Graduate of Tri-Rivers PN (2013) and LPN to RN (2014) programs and recipient of the Tri-Rivers' Judith Ryan Higel Award for exceptional academic and clinical success. After graduation, Ashley worked at Marion Manor as Registered Nurse, MDS Coordinator and charge nurse. She quickly became known as a patient advocate, providing meticulous and compassionate care. At the same time, she continued her education, graduating from Ohio University with her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 2019. Ashley joined Tri-Rivers' clinical faculty in 2016, teaching groups of students in various clinical sites over the next 3 years. She is currently working as a nurse leader and nurse educator at Avita Bucyrus Community Hospital. She has worked there as a Med Surg nurse, an ICU nurse, and now has the position of Student Nurse Residency and New Graduate Coordinator. She teaches, guides, encourages, and mentors new nurses and helps their own passion for the field of nursing to be nurtured.



Eli Cochran, Electronics 2005. Instructor of the Cyber Security program at Delaware Career Center. When Eli was a student at Tri-Rivers, he joined Ritch Ramey's robotics team, even though he was not in the Engineering program. When Eli left Tri-Rivers for Marion Technical College, he continued to compete in the National Robotics Challenge (NRC) at the post-secondary level. Upon entering the workforce, Eli immediately committed himself to serving as a judge for the annual event, and two years ago, he decided to go "all-in" and join the organizational committee. Eli now serves as the Director of Contest Judging, taking over for Mr. Ramey. Through his work, the NRC has modified the judging assignment process to utilize online tools that assist both judges and the companies. Now he is inspiring the next generation of future technicians and leaders to keep our community strong.

Tri-Rivers Events

Congratulations to our Retirees



Obra Horn-Welding 40 years
Lori Burkhardt-VOSE 29 years
Jim Rittler-AG & Industrial Power-25 years



Scott Jones-Advanced Machining-23 years
Terri Mantey-VOSE 21 years
Laurie Wise Healthcare-19 years



Larry Hickman Ex. Director 18 years
Debbie Curtis Executive Admin Asst. 13 years
Sharon Teynor Adult Ed. Health Care 11 years
Terry Donough Criminal Justice 10 years

School Year 2021
August 17
Welcome! First day of school for High School Career Tech Students

August 18
Board Meeting
6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room

August 30-Sept. 3
See us at the Morrow County Fair

September 6
No School-Labor Day

September 10
No School
Professional Dev. Day

September 15
Board Meeting
6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room

September 23 and 30
Parent-Teacher Conferences
3:30pm-6:30pm

October 15
COTA Day
No School

October 19
See us at the
Made in Marion Expo
Fairgrounds Coliseum

October 20
Board Meeting
6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room

October 21
Advisory Meeting & Dinner 5pm

November 2
Election Day
Remember to vote!

November 11
Veterans Day
Thank you!

November 16 & 17
Exploring Careers Days

November 18
Open House
5:30-7:30pm

November 24-26
No School/
Thanksgiving Break

Other Events
—8th & 9th Grade Tours
October & November
—On the Road
Amazing Tours to Associate Schools

Tri-Rivers Career Center
High School & Adult Education
2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road
Marion, OH 43302
740-389-4681

Tri-Rivers Career COMMUNICATOR

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#TRCCYouBelongHere

Alumni Highlight: Entrepreneur Abigail Erdy uses her Career Tech skills to build a photography business

By Abigail Erdy—graduate of the Interactive Media program

Even before my high school graduation, I was working full-bore towards my photography business. By the age of 13, I had developed my own website—abigailerdyphotography.com.

What's funny is back then I had no interest in the type of photography I'm doing now. I actually started out doing videography. I would take and edit videos of my younger brothers and me skiing and riding dirt bikes, then post the videos on YouTube.

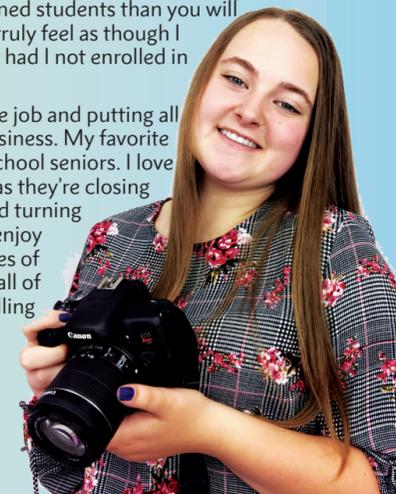
After getting burnt out on editing videos, I slowly switched over to photography. But I still focused on capturing sports. I would always think to myself "I would never enjoy doing portrait and family photos... that would be so boring." Little did I know, a few short years later, that's all I would be doing! Around the time of my switch from sports photography to portrait photography, I had enrolled in Tri-River's Interactive Media program. The training and hands-on learning that I experienced there really advanced my journey as a photographer. I was able to graduate high school with more certifications and experience than most other start-up photographers.

Each day I was blessed to walk into a school where I was surrounded by such supportive people— teachers, students

and administrators! At Tri-Rivers, I was able to compete in the State SkillsUSA Competitions in a Video Production contest and serve as a TRCC SkillsUSA Officer. I was also an Ambassador for the school, in which I positively represented Tri-Rivers and recruited others to follow their dreams and enroll in a Career-Tech program. You'll never see a school of more-determined students than you will at Tri-Rivers Career Center. I truly feel as though I wouldn't be where I am today had I not enrolled in my Career-Tech program.

Now, I am working a part-time job and putting all my other time towards my business. My favorite thing to photograph is high school seniors. I love capturing their personalities as they're closing a huge chapter of their life and turning the page to a new one. I also enjoy family sessions and other types of portrait photography. I serve all of Central Ohio and am even willing to travel!

I've just recently become an LLC and am looking forward to continuing to grow my business. I have plans to own a photography studio and expand my client base.



Principal Solis' Swag Bag Fridays at lunch are fun, engaging and an awesome way to recognize students "Caught Being Good." Above, top left, Mr. Solis presents awards/prizes. Right top, Deputy Layne hands out lanyards to students. Below the "Spice Girls"—aka Mrs. Kaffen, Ms. Belton, Mrs. Lauthers and Mrs. Arehart perform at the Friday event.

Our students Work Hard. Play Hard. And Give Back!

Tri-Rivers Career Center (High School & Adult) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

Our Address:
**Tri-Rivers Career Center
High School & Adult Education**
2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road
Marion, OH 43302

Our Mission:
Educate students in an engaging environment for tomorrow's opportunities in the workforce and community.

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 Communications Department 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, Ellen Messenger at emessenger@tririvers.com

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Dr. Charles Speelman
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Tri-Rivers is a School Where You Are ALLOWED to, INSPIRED to, and EXPECTED to Be Amazing!



Unskilled jobs are disappearing—to be successful you need a skill.

Superintendent's Message

Tri-Rivers—Training the Skilled Workers Since 1976

At Tri-Rivers, we work every day to meet our mission of educating students—high school and adult—in an engaging environment for tomorrow's opportunities in the workforce and community. As your career center we feel strongly about preparing students for the workforce, but at the same time preparing them academically for their current and future pursuits.

Tri-Rivers programs are connected to local business and industry. Every high school and adult program has an Industry Advisory Committee made up of leaders in their career fields. They provide expertise in choosing equipment, reviewing program curricula and advising Career Tech instructors and students.

Through the years we have proactively kept our programs up to date to provide current and relevant "hands on" skills training. The investments we have made in "State-of-the-Art" equipment and technology resources for students and staff are paying off in the form of higher achievement and student success. Those updates were put to the test over the last 12 months with the change in learning modes due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but because of the grit and perseverance shown by both students and staff we were able to finish the year successfully.

We are also working to provide additional Early College opportunities and Pre-Apprenticeships for our high school students. We want all students to have every opportunity available to succeed within their chosen career field. As we continue to invest in more modern and rigorous Career Technical Education (CTE) programs that are forward looking in nature, enrollments are up, as well as test scores and completion rates.

Along with high school programs, our Adult Education programs are stellar. In fact, our LPN to RN program has been ranked 1st out of the 96 nursing programs statewide by RegisteredNursing™ in 3 of the last 5 years. This is based on the student first-time passage rate on the national NCLEX nursing exam.

Both our High School and Adult programs provide students with opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications and credentials that show employers their capability and competency within a career field. For high school students, this can be an important step toward earning their diploma and demonstrating to employers that they are ready to work.

Tri-Rivers' RAMTEC continues to train high school and adult students in Robotics, Mechatronics, Industrial Maintenance and Welding. We were recently selected and awarded by the SME Education Foundation as a SME Prime District, which makes Tri-Rivers 1 of only 8 schools statewide to receive the SME Prime designation and the first career center to earn this award nationally.

We will not be satisfied with being viewed as a good career center, we want to be recognized as one of the best Career Centers in Ohio and beyond. When you look at all that has been achieved in the last several years, we are well on our way to accomplishing that goal!

Congratulations to the 2021 Adult Education graduates! You did it!

The success stories and celebrations of our Adult Education graduates were many even in a year where Covid precautions and concerns dominated. **Top awards in each program included:**

LPN-RN

- Adrienne Yanich received the Judith Ryan Higel Award; Outstanding Clinical Performance, Maternal Newborn, Community Health Nursing, RN Comprehensive Predictor, Fundamentals of Nursing
- Christina Ellaine O'Connor—Pharmacology
- Alicia Lynn Eldridge—Nursing Care of Children, Leadership, Mental Health Nursing, Medical-Surgical Nursing

Practical Nursing:

- Theresa Leigh Homan received the Mary Helen Gast Award; Outstanding Clinical Performance, Maternal Newborn
- Sarah Ellen Young—Fundamentals of Nursing and Mental Health
- Samantha Lawson—Pharmacology
- Castine Elizabeth Dunn—Leadership
- Sara JoAnn Woods—PN Comprehensive Predictor Test

Patient Care Technician:

- Brandon Walker received the Judy Louise Norris Award; Phlebotomy, Billing & Coding, EKG Tech, EHR, Clinical Medical Assistant, Patient Care Tech, Medical Administrative Assistant and STNA
- Monica Addy—Highest Academic Performance, Phlebotomy & STNA

Industrial Maintenance:

- Adam Furniss and Ryan Phal received Excellence in Attendance Awards



2021 Senior Recognition at the Marion Fairgrounds Coliseum



Tri-Rivers Senior Recognition 2021 was held May 27th at the Marion Fairgrounds Coliseum. It was a beautiful evening of celebration from a Color Guard presentation by our Criminal Justice students, to the singing of the national anthem by Johnny Mayes to the presentation of awards and recognition.

All Seniors crossed the stage and were recognized for their earned certifications, scholarships and awards. To view a full list of program completers and their honors, visit tririvers.com and check out the **High School News**.



Above, Captain Theodore Sauder from The Ohio State University ROTC awards Sophia Thacker (Criminal Justice/River Valley) the Army ROTC & Col. Jack Peavy Military Scholarship valued at over \$140,000. She is one of 1,500 students in the nation to be awarded this scholarship that includes full-ride tuition and stipends.

Below are special awards and highlights from the evening.

President's Awards

Membership and involvement in one of the three Career-Technical Student Organizations is an inter-curricular part of every student's education while they are enrolled at Tri-Rivers Career Center. These organizations include:

- **SkillsUSA** was led this year by President Grace Randall.
- **FFA** was led this year by President Kayla Carlyle.
- **FCCLA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America** was led this year by President Amelia England
- **National Technical Honor Society** was led by President Amelia England.

Academic Awards of Achievement:

The awards for the outstanding English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies students go to students who have displayed strong work ethic, perseverance, a positive attitude, and genuine interest in the subject.

- English—Alyssa Plybon**
- Math—Trista Funk**
- Science—Addilay Beeny**
- Social Studies —Elizabeth Oney**

Top Tradesman Awards

Awarded to top students in each program with high career tech performance and grades; leadership, citizenship and in the Top 10% of their program.

- Advanced Machining—Nathan Lopez (Ridgedale)
- Ag & Industrial Power—Jacob Snyder (Elgin)
- Automotive Technology—Rayleigh Clark (North Union) and Nicholas Manning (River Valley)
- Computer Networking Electronics—Gaege Weiber (Ridgedale)
- Construction Trades Academy—William Ogden (Home Schooled)
- Cosmetology—Alexis Spurlock (Elgin)
- Esthetics—Gracelyn Dooley (River Valley)
- Nail Tech—Grace Brenzo (Ridgedale)
- Criminal Justice—Skye Bivens (Mt. Gilead)
- Culinary Arts—Bryanna Beeny (Pleasant)
- Interactive Media—Brynn Whitcomb (Marion City)
- Engineering Technologies—Lawyer Scott (River Valley)
- Exercise Science—Alexis DeGood (Pleasant)
- Health Careers Academy—Rebekah Sturdivant (Mt. Gilead) and Giselle Perez (River Valley)
- Veterinary Science—Rachel Hogan (River Valley)
- VISION—Harold Manley (Elgin)
- Welding—Garrett Padovano and Cordell Nicholson (North Union)

Principal Solis' Awards

Awarded to outstanding students in each program for their level of involvement in student organizations, enthusiasm for the program and future plans that reflect their training.

- Advanced Machining—Preston Welsh (River Valley)
- Ag & Industrial Power—Griffin Delawder (River Valley)
- Automotive Technology—Tyler McManus (Pleasant)
- Computer Networking Electronics—Evan Jones (Ridgedale)
- Construction Trades Academy—Daniel Rengert (River Valley)
- Cosmetology—Grace Randall (Mt. Gilead)
- Esthetics—Breanna Notestine (Marion City)
- Nail Tech—Kristen Parker (Ridgedale)
- Criminal Justice—Sophia Thacker (River Valley)
- Culinary Arts—Amelia England (North Union)
- Interactive Media—Trista Funk (Pleasant)
- Engineering Technologies—Ryan Schlecht (Pleasant)
- Exercise Science—Alexis DeGood (Pleasant)
- Health Careers Academy—Sierra Arthur (Pleasant) and Elizabeth Oney (Elgin)
- Veterinary Science—Kayla Carlyle (Cardington)
- VISION—Jessica Price (River Valley)
- Welding—Logan Edington (River Valley)



Tammi Cowell
CFO/Treasurer

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated and will assure students from our area have the best possible career technical education available when they attend Tri-Rivers Career Center.

Renewal Levy (No New Taxes) will be on November 2021 ballot

Tri-Rivers Career Center will be seeking approval of the renewal of a 1.3 mil levy set to expire in 2022 on the November 2021 ballot. This levy is essential to the continued daily operations of the Career Center as well as providing necessary funds for upgrades to our building such as the school cafeteria. The proposed upgrades will modernize our 46-year-old kitchen area ensuring all students receive a nutritious lunch that is readily available during their lunch period. These funds also provide resources to keep our technology up to date so that students learn with the latest computers and software applications. Its passage will provide financial stability for many years to come for the Career Center at no additional cost to taxpayers.

While our District did receive some federal funds to assist with COVID expenditures, many pandemic related expenses were paid for from our general fund with no

reimbursement. Although the worst of the pandemic is now over and we are getting back to some sense of normalcy, there are still many after effects that will need addressed for many years to come.

Students are showing signs of need for additional help with social and emotional well-being issues as well as additional instructional support to get them caught up on their academics and on track to graduate. The funds generated from this renewal levy will provide the resources necessary to achieve student success. When students are successful and graduate high school we all win as a community as they leave TRCC ready to become productive members of society with a diploma earned from their respective high school; a skilled trade, a career passport, and industry-recognized credentials earned from Tri-Rivers Career Center. I cannot think of a better investment than the youth in our area!