



## Area Agency on Aging honors the Tri-Rivers Construction Trades Academy as the winner of their 2021 Community Service Award



Left photo: Eric Willey, Tri-Rivers Construction Academy Instructor; Steve Renick, Marion Senior Center Board President, and Marlene Renick; Jacob Fields and Kaimin Damron, Tri-Rivers Construction Academy Seniors; David Willey, Tri-Rivers Construction Academy Instructor; Jeremiah Pickens, Tri-Rivers Construction Academy Senior; Nicole Williams, VP of Outreach and Development at Area Agency on Aging; Steve Badertscher, Director of Marion Senior Center. Right photo: Marion Senior Center Activity Pavilion.



The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging selected Tri-Rivers Construction Trades Academy as their 2021 Community Service Award recipient. The Academy was honored on Wednesday, September 15, at a ceremony hosted in the Construction Academy lab at Tri-Rivers Career Center. A proclamation by State Senators Matt Huffman and Bill Reineke was also presented to the Construction Trades Academy students and instructors.

Nominated by Steve Badertscher, director of the Marion Senior Center, Tri-Rivers Construction Trades Academy stepped in to create the dream of building an activity pavilion at the Marion Senior Center. A team of 106 students and four instructors constructed a 32x50 ft activity pavilion for the Marion Senior Center. David Willey, an instructor from the Tri-Rivers Construction Trades Academy, championed and embraced the vision of this project to promote an active lifestyle for seniors.

"We are grateful and thankful for the efforts led by the Academy to help our center and the community. This award is long overdue and well-deserved because this group of students, led by Willey and his experienced team of instructors, are dedicated to projects to enhance their community," said Badertscher. Tri-Rivers Construction Trades Academy has also built projects for Habitat for Humanity,

Marion Tall Grass Trails, the Village of Prospect, and River Valley schools over the past year.

"I have always instilled the value of giving back to others and the community. We appreciate this award and the opportunity to serve others," said Willey. Many students remarked that they not only learn the planning and labor of construction projects, but they also learn leadership and client interaction skills.

Each year the Area Agency on Aging honors an organization, agency, service club, business, or media outlet that is making a difference in their communities on behalf of senior citizens.

There is only one award recipient selected from the Agency's nine-county service area (Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot.) The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc., located at 2131 Park Avenue West in Ontario, provides leadership, collaboration, coordination and services to older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers & resource networks that support individual choice, independence, and dignity.

**All programs at Tri-Rivers are committed to doing community service projects in the areas served by the Career Center.**



## Tri-Rivers Events

### Festival Fun!



**School Year 2021**  
**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 Meetings

**November 2**  
Election Day  
Remember to vote!

**November 11**  
Veterans Day  
Thank you!

**November 16 & 17**  
Exploring Careers Days

**November 17**  
Board Meeting  
6:30pm in the  
Multi-Purpose Room

**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

**December 1-9**  
End of Course Exams  
State Testing

**December 20-31**  
Winter Break

**School Year 2022**  
**January 3**  
School Resumes

**January 17**  
Martin Luther King Day  
No School

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



# Tri-Rivers Career COMMUNICATOR

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



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## #TRCCYouBelongHere



Visit [tririvers.com](http://tririvers.com) to  
learn more about

## Tri-Rivers RENEWAL Levy— No New Taxes— on the November 2021 ballot

## #TRCCYouBelongHere

## Training Skilled Professionals Since 1976

### 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](mailto:emessenger@tririvers.com)



Our Tri-Rivers Welding Level 2 students worked hard to fit a new stainless steel bed into the schools' dump truck. Real world practice builds real world skills! Nice job!

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.

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## Tri-Rivers: Training Skilled Professionals Since 1976



## The Passage of Tri-Rivers' Renewal Levy Will Maintain Vital Training for Today's Jobs

Tri-Rivers is a  
School Where You  
Are **ALLOWED** to,  
**INSPIRED** to, and  
**EXPECTED** to  
*Be Amazing!*

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

"Tri-Rivers has been training skilled professionals since 1976. To continue to compete in this economy we must continue to offer cutting-edge programs for 21st-century careers," Superintendent Chuck Speelman explained. "With this renewal levy, Tri-Rivers can maintain quality programs and facilities, ensuring our students have the latest training, equipment and skills necessary to meet the needs of area employers."

Tri-Rivers has a proven track record where more than 90 percent of their graduates go on to enter the local workforce, enlist in the military, continue on-the-job training in apprenticeship programs and/or continue their educations in two-year, or four-year colleges. "Tri-Rivers' students are required to know "What's My E" after graduation—Are they Enrolling in additional education? Enlisting in the military? Seeking Employment in their field? Our students have a plan; they are ready for graduation," said Speelman.

Along with providing skills training for high school students, Tri-Rivers also provides training for adults, including training Paramedics, Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Industrial Maintenance Techs, and Robotics Techs. "Our LPN to RN program has been ranked 1st out of the 96 nursing programs statewide for RegisteredNursing™ in 3 of the last 5 years," said Adult Director Richard George.

George said Tri-Rivers Adult Education also offers an Adult High School Diploma program that provides free job training and a new pathway for adults, age 20 and older, to earn their high school diploma, while gaining skills and a certification in welding. "This program is life-changing for the participants."

*"Tri-Rivers provides great value to the communities it serves," said Board President Glenna Plotts. "With the passage of this renewal levy, we can continue to make a real difference by producing work-ready graduates for real jobs in Marion, Morrow and Union counties."*

"Tri-Rivers works directly with local businesses and corporations like Honda and Whirlpool to help provide training and meet the demands of today's job market," said Speelman. "It is with the community's support that we will be able to stay on that path, making sure our students are ready for the ever-changing employment landscape."

The passage of this renewal levy—at no additional costs to taxpayers—will provide financial stability and resources necessary to achieve student success, said Tammi Cowell, Treasurer/CFO for Tri-Rivers. "When students are successful and graduate high school with a plan for success, we all win as a community. With a diploma, a skilled trade, a career passport, and industry-recognized credentials, our Tri-Rivers' graduates are ready to become productive members of their communities. I cannot think of a better investment than the skills training of our area youth and adults."

## Baileys start a scholarship fund for TRCC students attending Marion Technical College

**Thank you Dr. David and Mrs. Alice Bailey! The Baileys of Waldo are investing in Marion's future. They have pledged \$50,000 to create an endowed scholarship fund for Tri-Rivers graduates attending Marion Technical College. Funds can be used for tuition, books or living expenses. Visit MTC's website for details: <https://www.mtc.edu/baileyscholarship/>**



*"We support the community. This is one way to do it. We are investing in future generations of young people who will complete their education at Marion Tech. Many students want to stay in Marion," said Dr. Bailey, a retired local otolaryngologist. "We want to support valuable people doing valuable things. These are degrees and skills we need in Marion."*

Alice Bailey worked as the equity coordinator with tech prep programs at Marion Technical College. She also worked as a career development coordinator at Tri-Rivers Career Center for more than 20 years.

*"I loved what I did. I loved the kids. I realized the need," Alice Bailey said. "...The instructors at Tri-Rivers and Marion Tech change lives. They focus on the individual needs of the students and try their best to get them to complete a program, earn a credential and make a good living."*

*"Marion Technical College and Tri-Rivers Career Center have a great partnership," said Phyllis Butterworth, president of the Marion Technical College Foundation.*

## AGE 20+ HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM EARN A HS DIPLOMA & WELDING CERTIFICATION!



**ENROLL TODAY! | 740.389.8590 | [TriRivers.com](http://TriRivers.com)**



## Meet TRCC's new Career Tech Instructors



### Kim Davidson, Health Careers Academy Instructor

Mrs. Davidson has been a Registered Nurse since 1994 with 20 years of hospital experiences both in Medical Surgical and Labor Delivery. She has been teaching since 2005. She is a happy, energetic and caring person. "I love working with students! I love preparing them for helping their future patients and residents."

*Favorite Quote: You are the greatest project that you will ever work on.*

*Teaching Philosophy: ...I treat my students with respect, and I find that is what I receive in return. My students can count on my classroom being a safe space where learning takes place...I believe my students deserve my 100% attention and I strive for 200%!*



### Scott Waters, Construction Trades Academy Instructor

Mr. Waters has been self-employed for almost 30 years specializing in custom homes, custom log homes, chainsaw carvings and epoxy art. He has trained hundreds of people over the years, but this is his first year in the classroom. He is professional, caring and fun.

*Favorite Quote: Good enough, is not good.*

*Teaching Philosophy: ...I believe students are unique and need to learn in an exciting and positive environment. ...I will create this environment in my classes. I want students to feel comfortable and confident so they can meet their full potential. I always provide a safe environment where students are invited to share their ideas and to take risks...*



### Dennis Marsh, Jr., Ag & Industrial Power Instructor

Mr. Marsh has worked over 20 years in the field—10 years with Caterpillar Heavy Equipment, and 10 years with Case International Heavy Ag Equipment. He can work on anything and everything both as a field technician and as a shop technician. He is honest, hard-working and determined.

*Favorite Quote: When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on. —Franklin D. Roosevelt*

*Teaching Philosophy: ...I bring an open mind, positive attitude and high expectations to the classroom every day. I will assist my students with learning, not allowing anyone to fail and providing hands-on training to help them understand the concepts taught in the classroom.*



### David Mack, Criminal Justice Instructor

Mr. Mack was sworn in as a Patrol Officer in 1992, then promoted to Sergeant in 2000 and to Captain in 2016. He is a 19-year SWAT team member, 10-year dive/rescue member, as well as Defensive Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Driving Instructor, Certified Computer Forensics, Certified Crime Scene Analysis, Police Academy Instructor (2005-Present) and Private Security Instructor (2007-Present). He has taught 16 years. He is enthusiastic, influential and intense.

*Favorite Quote: You are never out of the fight.*

*Teaching Philosophy: ...I believe that a criminal justice program should be built on the following core values: adaptability, attention to detail, diversity, honesty, officer safety, performance driven, professionalism, self-discipline, sense of urgency and team oriented.*



### Dakota Elswick, Welding Instructor

Mrs. Elswick graduated from Tri-Rivers Welding program, worked in the field and then returned as an aide for Mr. Horn, who taught welding at TRCC for 40 years. Mr. Horn retired and Mrs. Elswick was hired as a full-time instructor. She is excited that all of her students get their own welding station every day. She also feels the certifications students can earn and opportunities they have in her class will help them find excellent jobs. She is determined, hardworking and caring.

*Favorite Quote: Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.*

*Teaching Philosophy: ...I am here to ensure my students are given all the opportunities that I had as a Tri-Rivers welding student, if not more! We don't wait for the future, we build it.*

**Next Issue We Will Introduce our New Academic and Support Staff.**