



**Tri-Rivers Career Center  
High School &  
Adult Education-Ohio  
Technical Center (OTC)**  
2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road  
Marion, OH 43302

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### Our Address:

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

### 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)



**Congratulations to Andriah Kirkpatrick!**  
Andriah, a student in Criminal Justice from Ridgedale, was elected a State Officer in SkillsUSA.

### Quite an accomplishment!

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 Career COMMUNICATOR

#TRCCYouBelongHere



## Tri-Rivers Adult Education's healthcare programs move to a new location



**Tri-Rivers top-rated healthcare  
programs' enrollments are growing**

We are excited to announce that we have purchased the former Ponderosa Building directly across from Tri-Rivers Main Campus. The new address is 2227 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road.

The updates on the building are almost complete. Kudos to the contractors, our maintenance team, our high school Construction Trades Academy and the Adult Education Healthcare Team for their hard work! It's been a team effort getting the building ready for classes to start in August.

**The new healthcare building will house  
the following programs:**

Paramedicine • EMR  
EMT • Practical Nursing  
LPN to RN • Patient Care Technician

## Tri-Rivers Events

**2023**

**August 10**  
New Student Orientation  
5:30pm

**August 15**  
First Day of School  
Welcome Students!

**August 16**  
Board Meeting  
6:30pm in Room 104

**September 4**  
Labor Day  
No School

**September 7**  
Popcorn Festival Parade  
Watch for our float!

**September 8**  
Professional  
Development Day  
No School

**September 20**  
Board Meeting  
6:30pm in Room 104

**September 21 & 28**  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30-6:30pm

**September 22-Nov. 3**  
8th Grade Tours  
Area 8th graders tour TRCC

**October 20**  
COTA Day  
No School

**October 17**

**Made in Marion Expo**  
Marion Fairgrounds  
Coliseum  
TRCC will be there!

**October 18**

**Board Meeting**  
6:30pm in Room 104

**October 25**

**2nd Annual  
Transition Fair**  
5:30-7:30pm  
A free resource for students  
with developmental disabilities  
and their families

**November 14 & 15**  
**Exploring Careers Days**

**November 15**

**Board Meeting**  
6:30pm in Room 104

**November 22-24**

**Thanksgiving Break**  
No School  
(Nov. 22 is make-up day for  
conference, if needed)

**December 20-29**

**Holiday Break**  
No School

**January 1**  
No School

**January 2**

**Records Day**  
No School For Students:  
Staff in Attendance





## Tri-Rivers Career Center provides excellent financial stewardship

By **Tammi Cowell**  
Treasurer/CFO

Tri-Rivers Career Center (TRCC) has a strong track record of maximizing resources and streamlining costs. The administration and Board of Education work hard to maintain a balanced budget while providing for the needs of students in our District. TRCC obtains grants and uses those funds in ways beneficial to secondary and adult students while saving taxpayers money.

Our Board of Education approved the Spring Five Year Forecast at their regular May meeting. ***Tri Rivers Career Center is in a strong financial position for the next five years based on current assumptions in the forecast.*** Spending from cash reserves (savings account) will occur in the next few years based on plans to provide necessary upgrades to our facilities including completion of renovations and equipment upgrades to the Cafeteria and the Culinary Arts Lab and a new Heavy Equipment Operations Training facility. There is also a plan to upgrade several of the industrial labs with new state-of-the-art training equipment necessary for students to learn skills required to obtain industry recognized credentials and gain employment. The district is hoping to receive assistance with these equipment purchases from ODE (Ohio Department of Education) through funds recently approved in the new biennium budget.

Expenditures over the past year include the purchase of a bulldozer, excavator, and front loader for training in the Construction Trades Academy. RAMTEC is partnering with The Ohio State University Marion campus to purchase robotics equipment with the use of grant funds from the Innovative Workforce Investment Program, general fund dollars, and funds made available to OSUM from the Marion Community Foundation. We have purchased SMART manufacturing training cells for use in the Diesel & Power Equipment Technology program as well as tooling and

trainers for Snap On certifications. New kennels were purchased for use in Veterinary Science as they care for cats from the local humane society. A new CNC press brake, crane, and material handler were purchased for use in the Welding Fabrication Lab so students are trained and certified on equipment they will use in the workplace.

We used some of our Innovative Workforce Investment Program grant money to update equipment and share used equipment and resources with North Union to help them assist students in gaining industry recognized credentials and obtain a pathway to graduation.

TRCC will continue to operate in a frugal manner with open and transparent financial decisions always striving to see a positive return on educational investments.

### Cafeteria News

The Tri-Rivers Cafeteria will once again offer free breakfast to all students for the 23-24 school year. Last year our cafeteria employees served a nutritious and delicious breakfast to approximately 230 students who may not have typically eaten breakfast otherwise.

The staff offers a variety of hot and cold breakfast items compliant with USDA, ODE, and federal guidelines. We encourage all TRCC students to participate each morning! Breakfast is served each school day from 7:45-8:15 a.m in the cafeteria.

Thank you to our TRCC Board of Education members for their support and our hardworking cafeteria team for making this possible!

### Marcie Whited receives award

Congratulations, Marcie Whited, Executive Assistant, for being one of the 2023 Londa Schwierking Outstanding Fiscal Support Staff winners at the OASBO Annual Conference (Camp OASBO). As part of the award, TRCC received a \$500 scholarship that was awarded to Luke Wellin, a Senior in Health Careers Academy.



## Thank you to our retirees for their service, dedication



**Ellen Messenger, center, retired as the Director of Communications after 33 years of service. She is pictured with colleagues Josh Spore and Courtney Murphy.**



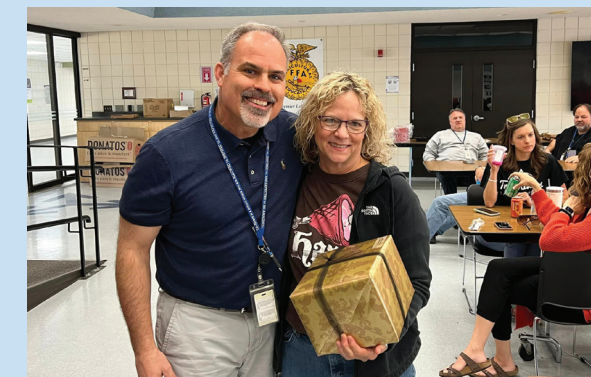
**Larry Honaker, retired after 15 years of service, in Adult Education. He was a Computer Applications Instructor and Tech Support.**

### Director of Tri-Rivers Adult Education completes Leadership Marion

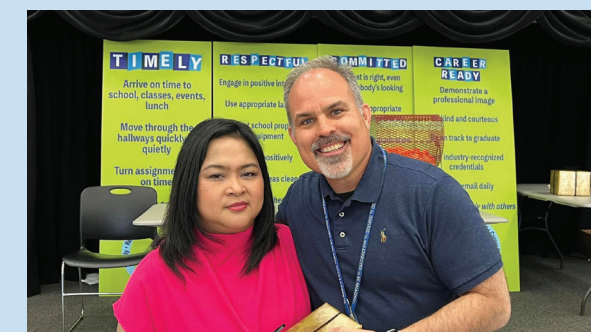


Congratulations to our Director of Adult Education Aaron Stewart, above, pictured with Chamber President Heidi Jones. Aaron completed the *Leadership Marion!* —the Marion Area Chamber of Commerce's leadership development program. What a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Marion Area and to find ways to serve and become a vital part of its success.

## Years of Service Awards



**Sheila Hamm, pictured with Principal Chris Solis, received recognition for 30 years of service in Career Tech. She served many years as the Culinary Arts Instructor and continues to serve in several capacities today.**



**Dr. Emeline Kelly, pictured with Principal Chris Solis, received recognition for 25 years of service in Adult Education. She is the Director of Nursing and Public Safety Services.**

### 15 Years of Service

Angela Branam  
Sherrie Dunn  
Michelle Rawlins

### 10 Years of Service

Lucas Bledsoe  
Paula Brazell  
Mark Edington  
Randy Greenwood  
Brad Harvey

### 5 years of Service

Dakota Elswick  
Kirstin Large  
Lauren Hall  
Kelli Woycke





Partnering with the Marion Family YMCA, Tri-Rivers provided exploration of careers and cultures during Summer Camp 2023.

Special thanks to the Marion Community Foundation and Marion Noon Kiwanis for their support.



For more details on the summer camp activities at Tri-Rivers, contact Kathleen Clemons-Keller. Mrs. Clemons-Keller is Tri-Rivers' College and Career Readiness Coordinator. Her position was made possible through Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan that set aside funds for career awareness and exploration for grades K-12. [kclemons-keller@tririvers.com](mailto:kclemons-keller@tririvers.com)

We are *EARNING* a **FREE ASSOCIATE DEGREE** through Tri-Rivers' and The University of Akron's **Early College High School Program (ECHS).**



Lily Leavitt, a student from North Union is majoring in Health Careers Academy at Tri-Rivers

*"Early College High School has been a good experience for me. I plan to go on and get my Bachelors Degree. I think this opportunity has helped me to create a successful future. The virtual professors are very personable; you really get to know them."*

Lily plans to eventually work in a hospital.



Emma Peria, a student from Pleasant High School is majoring in Exercise Science & Sports Med at Tri-Rivers.

*"In my Exercise Science program I've earned my Physical Therapy Aide Certification and in my ECHS lab I'm getting my general education college courses. I'm learning to be better organized and to manage my time. I now feel college ready and confident in myself."*

Emma plans to become a Nurse and work at Nationwide Children's Hospital.



Julia Jenkins, a student from Delaware Hayes is majoring in Interactive Media at Tri-Rivers.

*"I was nervous coming in. I hadn't taken any AP or CCP courses. However, I've learned to take good lecture notes and take advantage of this huge opportunity to earn my associate's degree for free! And, Mrs. Schirtzinger is always there to help you with assignments."*

Julia plans to do wedding and food photography. She also hopes to continue her studies at the Modern College of Design.

These students are earning their associate degrees by majoring in career tech programs at Tri-Rivers Career Center and taking their general education classes through The University of Akron in the Career Center's Virtual Lab.

Click QR Code for details on our website.



Tri-Rivers congratulates the Marion Community Foundation on their 25th Anniversary. We appreciate the support of the Foundation over the years.  
**Thank You and Happy Anniversary!**







# Tri-Rivers earns 4.5 Star Rating on the Report Card

By Kristina Lucas  
Executive Director of Operations  
klucas@tririvers.com

The preliminary Report Card data for the 2022-2023 School Year was recently released. This year the state has changed the Alpha letter grade rating to a 5-star rating scale. As you can see, based on our data, we have earned a 4.5 Star rating on a 5-star scale.

We continue to show great strides in Technical Skill Attainment from 78.8% last year to 82.8% this year in our Career Technical Planning District (CTPD) with 93.4% proficient or above in our JVSD. Again, Technical Skill Attainment is our State WebXams for our CTE courses that are offered in our school.

*We are very excited to see that 90.6% of our students have gained some type of industry credentials with 54.7% of them gaining a 12pt industry recognized credential. These types of gains are not only good for our students but also good for our community and our economy.*

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that our students have a 93.5% Post Program Placement from Tri-Rivers—this is thanks to our wonderful instructors that have put in the time and effort to make sure our students are engaged with what they need to succeed once they leave our JVSD.

I have added the JVSD data for comparative purposes so that you can see the work that is being done at TRCC specifically.

We are excited to see this data continue to grow in the right direction and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve the students of TRCC-JVSD and CTPD.

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Achievement</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>4 Stars</b>
Technical Skill Attainment	64.2%	65.1%	70.61%	82.0%	78.8%	4(93.4%) (82.8%)
Performance Index	45.5%	72.8%	NC OST	65.6%	66.1%	3 Stars (65.8%)
<b>Graduation Rate</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>5 Stars</b>
4-Year	95.7%	95.5%	96.1%	96.2%	95.7%	95.0%
5-Year	96.3%	97.0%	96.6%	97.0%	98.4%	96.9%
<b>Career &amp; Post-Secondary</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>4 Stars</b>
Readiness	32.91%	66.3%	74.6%	76.6%	72.6%	78.5%
<b>Post-Program Outcomes</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>5 Stars</b>
Post Program Placement (CTPD)	87.3%	90.9%	95.5%	90.9%	88%	93.5%
Any Credentials	NC	20%	33.3%	53.4%	53.4%	(90.6%)(57.9%)
Industry-Recognized Credentials (12pt)	14.1%	20.8%	33%	34.0%	29.4%	(54.7%)(34.8%)
Post-Program Placement (JVSD)	84.8%	87.1%	92%	88.4%	87.2%	93.5%
12pt Industry (JVSD)	29.4%	42.7%	52.8%	59.8%	44.7%	54.7%+
Overall Rating			NR	NR	B	4.5 Stars

Tri-Rivers JVSD CTPD – 6 Year Report Card Data

**\*\*Blue denotes- JVSD data specifically**

**Black denotes CTPD data**



# Graduations, celebrations, recognitions, awards



Follow Tri-Rivers Facebook for additional high school and adult education celebration photos and updates.



By Ellen Messenger  
Retiring Director of Communications  
emessenger@tririvers.com

My favorite quote is “Wherever you are, be all there” by Jim Elliot. I believe that is so important!

When I married Paul and moved to Marion, I was working outside of the community. Quickly I discovered that I really wanted to work, play and give back to the community that I now called home.

When a position opened at Scantland Communications, I jumped at the chance to become part of that organization. And, to become part of Marion. The friends and connections I made while working as the managing editor for that company’s NEWSLIFE and OUTLOOK publications are still an integral part of my life. I had the opportunity to learn from some of the best photographers in town and from some of the best communications people I’ve ever met.

Then Tri-Rivers created a communications position. I was thrilled to be hired for this position. I thought I’d stay maybe five years, then I fell in love with Career Tech. Superintendent Jim Craycraft and Advisory Board member Jack Lautenslager were amazing mentors. And the staff I’ve worked with during my 33 years are dedicated professionals, many of them I’m lucky enough to call lifelong friends.

Over the years I’ve seen Career Tech change and evolve, but one thing remains—it is pathway to success! It warms my heart to see our graduates—adult and high school—working in high paying, rewarding jobs, being leaders, owning their own businesses and giving back to the communities we serve. Today Career Tech is nationally recognized for providing skills and leadership training, as well as teaching work ethic, time management, teamwork and problem solving.

As I retire from Tri-Rivers, I can say that my work here was more of a mission than a job. I loved mentoring students, working with area schools, partnering with other Ohio Career Centers to do statewide influencer campaigns, being part the team that brought RAMTEC to life, being on the initial Tech Prep State Marketing Committee, creating graphics, slogans and logos, managing websites, social media, doing events, etc for the Career Center. But most of all I enjoyed seeing students succeed, working with a staff dedicated to students’ success and knowing Tri-Rivers is always looking for ways to provide an up-to-date career tech experience. I believe 100% in what Tri-Rivers and Career Tech in general is providing for students.

I now look forward to more time with my family, working 20 hours a week instead of 60, and continuing to give back to the community. My next venture is starting my own part-time business—E.B. Messenger Communications.

Life truly is a journey and I’m so glad TRCC was part of my journey.  
Thank you.