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Buckeye High School, Tri-C Launch Associate's Degree Pathway for Students

MEDINA, OHIO (September 10, 2026) — Buckeye High School and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) are expanding opportunities for students to earn college credentials before they graduate, launching the new Associate's Academy and College Credit Plus (CCP) Lab with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 18.

The Associate's Academy provides a structured pathway for high school students to work toward both a Buckeye High School diploma and a Tri-C associate's degree by the time they graduate. The inaugural cohort includes 27 Buckeye students who were admitted to the program through Tri-C.

"We are planting seeds of hope through this academy," said Tri-C President Michael A. Baston, J.D., Ed.D. "We are saying to those students who raised their hands and said, 'I want to try, and I want to start,' that we see you, we support you and we will encourage you."

Through the academy, students will follow a prescribed blueprint of college-level courses throughout their high school careers. Courses will combine Tri-C curriculum with instruction from Buckeye faculty who are certified to teach through the College Credit Plus program, as well as remote instruction from Tri-C professors.

The newly renovated space inside Buckeye High School will serve as a dedicated, college-style learning environment for students participating in the Associate's Academy and for other students taking remote college courses through CCP. The space provides students with access to academic support from Buckeye staff while they navigate the expectations of college-level coursework.

The program builds on Buckeye Local Schools' ongoing partnership with Tri-C and reflects a shared commitment to expanding access to affordable, high-quality higher education opportunities for students in Medina County.

“We are happy to continue to expand our partnership with Tri-C and provide this great opportunity for our students and our future students,” Buckeye Local Schools Superintendent Jeff Stanton said. “It is my honor and privilege to work in an educational community that stresses advanced opportunities for students while actively looking for partnerships to enhance our educational mission. Our students are the benefactors, and this is going to be a great asset to our Buckeye High School community.”

The Associate’s Academy and CCP Lab also represents a collaborative effort among Buckeye staff, Tri-C, the Buckeye Education Foundation and the Jenkins Family Endowment. The Buckeye Education Foundation and Jenkins Family Endowment provided generous support for the new space and its college-style furnishings.

The Associate’s Academy will grow as additional Buckeye students have the opportunity to apply and gain admission to the program in future years. The dedicated space will also continue to support Buckeye students enrolled in college-level coursework through CCP.

The launch comes as Tri-C continues to expand its partnerships throughout Medina County, building on its efforts to make higher education more accessible to students across the region.

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For more information about Buckeye Local School District, visit https://www.buckeyeschools.org/.

For more information about Cuyahoga Community College, visit https://www.tri-c.edu/.