DIRECTIVE 2020-004

January 16, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS.

§375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly required any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of Higher Education (the “Chancellor”). On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for the biennium.

Pursuant to §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 as well as Directive 2009-011, Cuyahoga Community College (“Tri-C”) has requested for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to continue to waive standard tuition rates nonpublic high school students and home school students that do not receive funding under College Credit Plus.

Tri-C has demonstrated the following:

- Tri-C’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing a continuation of the tuition waiver at its meeting on March 21, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.

- Tri-C’s current tuition charges are as follows:
  - Instructional Fee (per credit hour): $95.04
  - General and Technology Fee: $19.50
  - Total (per credit hour) Fee: $114.54
  - OUT-OF-COUNTY SURCHARGE (per credit hour): $29.54
  - Combined per credit hour rate of $144.08

- Tri-C has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition to the College Credit Plus statutory floor of $41.64 for nonpublic high school students who were not funded under College Credit Plus and are attending Tri-C courses at their high school taught by a high school instructor meeting Tri-C’s credentialing requirements. This is a current waiver of $72.90 per credit hour for Cuyahoga County residents and $101.44 for non-county Ohio residents, as a $1 out of county surcharge is required by law.

- Tri-C also requests to reduce tuition to $41.64 for nonpublic high school students who were not funded under College Credit Plus and attend courses at their high school and taught by a
Tri-C faculty member. This is a current waiver of $72.90 per credit hour for Cuyahoga County residents and $101.44 for non-county Ohio residents, as a $1 out of county surcharge is required by law.

- Finally, Tri-C requests to reduce tuition to $80 per credit hour for nonpublic high school and home school students who were not funded under College Credit Plus and attend courses at one of Tri-C's campus locations or online. This is a waiver of $34.54 per credit hour for Cuyahoga County residents and $63.08 for other non-county Ohio residents.
  - The specific amount being waived per credit hour may change depending on Tri-C's tuition rates and College Credit Plus funding levels or amounts agreed upon in an alternative funding agreement, but in any event, the College Credit Plus floor, mid-level and the $80 rates, or the agreed upon rates in an alternative funding agreement, will be charged with the $1 out of county surcharge as applicable.

- Tri-C proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

- Tri-C expects the tuition waiver will affect approximately 175 students over the duration of the waiver.

- Tri-C’s goals pursuant to this tuition waiver are to maintain or increase the number of nonpublic students participating in the College Credit Plus program, to ensure Tri-C’s continued ability to offer high-quality college level courses to eligible nonpublic students through the College Credit Plus program, and to maintain Tri-C’s relationships and partnerships with local nonpublic education institutions, their students and families.

- The previous tuition waiver for non-funded College Credit Plus students was very effective. Tri-C was able to provide tuition waivers to 94 students that were not funded under College Credit Plus. Additionally, Tri-C reports the waiver allowed it to maintain positive relationships and partnerships with local nonpublic schools.

- Tri-C will monitor the success of students receiving the waiver through reports generated by Tri-C’s Institutional Research department. Goals will be evaluated in the following areas:
  - The number of nonpublic College Credit Plus students enrolled in the program;
  - The fall to spring and fall to fall retention rates for nonpublic College Credit Plus students;
  - The ongoing monitoring of the success of nonpublic College Credit Plus students including overall midterm grades, course completion rates, final grades, grade point averages and student evaluation of courses; and
  - Communication with nonpublic institutions and their students regarding the approval of this tuition waiver and the College's continued ability to extend the program to nonpublic institutions and students at an affordable rate of tuition.
Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the ODHE website for the purpose of providing a public comment period before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby approve the continuation of the tuition waiver request from Cuyahoga Community College for academic terms beginning before June 30, 2021 as set forth above.

This directive will take immediate effect.

Randy Gardner
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education
May 8, 2019

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Mr. Randy Gardner  
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Carey,

Cuyahoga Community College is requesting a continuation of the tuition waiver from the Ohio Department of Higher Education for nonpublic high school students participating in the College Credit Plus program for the FY20-21 biennium.

In accordance with Directive 2009-11, our formal request is outlined below:

The College Credit Plus program provides Ohio students in grades 7 through 12 with the opportunity to earn college and high school credit simultaneously by taking courses from Ohio’s community colleges and universities. The purpose of this program is to provide college-level academic courses to college-ready students at no cost to the students or their families.

Nonpublic students (those that are home schooled or enrolled in private school) in grades 7 through 12 can request funding from the State of Ohio to participate in the College Credit Plus program; however, due to high interest in the program, the number of nonpublic high school students requesting to participate is projected to surpass the allocated funds set forth by the State. In the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, Cuyahoga Community College anticipates that it will serve 350 nonpublic high school students through the College Credit Plus program. Based on prior years’ data, it is estimated that 30 to 50 percent will not receive funding from the State, leaving the burden of tuition on students and their families.

In order to address this shortfall, we are requesting a waiver of standard tuition rates and fees for nonpublic students. We anticipate that this waiver will affect approximately 175 of the College’s 350 nonpublic College Credit Plus students over the course of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years. The waiver and tuition rates that such students would pay will be set forth in a signed Memorandum of Understanding for College Credit Plus. This waiver would be in effect during the academic years outlined above; however, we anticipate the waiver to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority of the Chancellor.

Cuyahoga Community College’s current tuition rates are as follows:

a. Instructional fee - $95.04
b. General and technology fee - $19.50
c. Out of County surcharge - $29.54

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Cuyahoga Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.
The tuition waiver amount will be equal to the difference between the College’s in-state tuition rates and the College Credit Plus tuition rates that will be outlined in the State’s FY20-21 biennial budget. The specific dollar amount waived will be calculated when the College’s tuition rates and the minimum (“floor”) and maximum (“ceiling”) College Credit Plus rates are finalized, and will be tiered based students’ in-County residency status and the criteria outlined below:

- Students attending college courses offered at a high school taught by a high school instructor meeting the College’s credentialing requirements for each subject area.
- Students attending college courses offered at a high school taught by a Tri-C faculty member.
- Students attending college courses offered at one of the Colleges’ campuses/locations or online.

The goals of this waiver are to maintain or increase the number of nonpublic students participating in the College Credit Plus program, to ensure Tri-C’s continued ability to offer high-quality college level courses to eligible nonpublic students through the College Credit Plus program, and to maintain Tri-C’s relationships and partnerships with local nonpublic education institutions, their students and their families.

We will monitor the success of students receiving the waiver, in part, through reports generated by the College’s Intuitional Research Department. Goals will be evaluated in the following areas:

- The number of nonpublic College Credit Plus students enrolled in the program
- The Fall-to-Spring and Fall-to-Fall retention rates for nonpublic College Credit Plus Students
- The ongoing monitoring of the success of nonpublic College Credit Plus students, including their overall midterm grades, course completion rates, final grades, grade point averages and student evaluations of courses.
- Communication with nonpublic institutions and their students regarding the approval of this tuition waiver and the College’s continued ability to extend the program to nonpublic institutions and students at an affordable rate of tuition

The Cuyahoga Community College District Board of Trustees affirmed the continuation of this waiver at their meeting on March 21, 2019. A copy of the certified resolution is attached.

We appreciate you taking the time to review our request. If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alex Johnson
President
BOARD RESOLUTION
R2019-85

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District that:

(A) The Board authorizes the renewal of the tuition waiver as outlined for nonpublic students participating in the College Credit Plus program.

(B) The final waiver amount will be determined when the floor and ceiling rates for College Credit Plus are finalized in the FY 20-21 State budget bill.

(C) The tuition waiver will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

(D) The Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District on March 21, 2019.

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Cuyahoga Community College District
CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MATERIAL FOR REVIEW
BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

___ Access, Learning and Success Committee
___ Community Affairs Committee
___ Management Committee
___ Investment Committee

SUBJECT: Reaffirmation of a Tuition Waiver for Non-Public School District Students in the College Credit Plus Program

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Review for formal recommendation to the full Board of Trustees at
___ the next regular scheduled Board Meeting.
___ Background material for future Board of Trustees action item.
___ Update information/status report. For informational purposes only.

SYNOPSIS: The College seeks reaffirmation of a tuition waiver from the Ohio Department of Higher Education for non-public high school students participating in the College Credit Plus program.
Reaffirmation of a Tuition Waiver for Non-Public School District Students in the College Credit Plus Program

I. SUMMARY BACKGROUND

Ohio's College Credit Plus program provides the opportunity for Ohio students in grades 7-12 to earn college and high school credit simultaneously by taking courses through an accredited college or university.

Students that attend private (non-public) schools or are homeschooled can request funding from the State of Ohio to participate in this program. Due to a large number of interested students, the number of nonpublic high school students requesting to participate in this program often surpasses the amount of allocated funds set forth the State. For the upcoming school year, the College (Tri-C) anticipates serving upwards of 350 nonpublic students. Based on historical data, it is estimated that 30-50% of nonpublic students will not receive funding from the State of Ohio, thus, leaving the burden on the families to self-pay for tuition and books.

In order to address this shortfall, it recommended that the College renew its commitment to waive the standard tuition rates and fees for nonpublic students by providing the opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for College Credit Plus. The timeframe of the waiver will continue for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years; however, we anticipate the waiver to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority of the Chancellor to approve tuition waivers.

The tuition waiver amount will be equal to the amount of tuition charged to public school districts in the same academic year. The specific dollar amount waiver will be calculated based upon the College's current tuition rate and the minimum (“floor”) and maximum (“ceiling”) College Credit Plus rates, once finalized. The rate will be tiered based on students' County residency status and the criteria outlined below:

- Students attending college courses offered at the high school with high school instructor meeting the College's credentialing requirement by subject area and hired as a Tri-C Adjunct Faculty.
- Students attending college courses offered at the high school taught by a Tri-C Faculty member.
- Students attending college courses offered at a Tri-C campus location or online.

II. BOARD RESOLUTION

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District that:

(A) The Board authorizes the renewal of the tuition waiver as outlined for nonpublic students participating in the College Credit Plus program.
(B) The final waiver amount will be determined when the floor and ceiling rates for College Credit Plus are finalized in the FY 20-21 State budget bill.

(C) The tuition waiver will implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

(D) The Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.