Ohio | Department of Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

DIRECTIVE 2020-009

January 16, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE TRI-C TUITION REWARDS PROGRAM.

§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 this biennium.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 and Directive 2009-011, Cuyahoga Community College ("Tri-C") has requested that for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 standard tuition rates continue to be waived for students participating in the TRI-C Tuition Rewards Program ("TTRP"). TRI-C has demonstrated the following:

- TRI-C's Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on March 21, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- TRI-C has submitted a specific request to waive standard tuition rates for students who participate in the TTRP. Students are eligible to earn the tuition waiver by successfully completing a specified number of credit hours and redeeming the waiver in the following semester. Additional details are as follows:
    - Earning the tuition waiver- a student who participates in the TTRP and enrolls in and successfully completes (by earning a grade of C or better or Pass) 15 or more credit hours in the Spring and Fall or 7 or more credit hours in the summer will receive a waiver of fifty percent of tuition paid for all credit hours over 12 (Spring/Fall) or 6 (Summer). The maximum earned credits under the program is 75.
    - Current tuition rates are:
        - 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

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- OUT-OF-STATE SURCHARGE (per credit hour): $156.65
  - Combined per credit hour rate of $271.19

- The specific amount of the waiver for each class of students pursuant to the TTRP are as follows:
  - A Cuyahoga County resident would receive a waiver of $57.27 combined per credit hour.
  - An Ohio resident pays $144.08 per credit hour. Such student would receive a waiver of $72.04 combined per credit hour.
  - An out-of-state resident pays $271.19 per credit hour. Such student would receive a waiver of $135.60 combined per credit hour.
    - *Note: these numbers are subject to change based on tuition rates for subsequent academic years with the amount waived remaining 50% of the combined per credit hour rate.*

- In addition, the following charts demonstrate how the waiver is earned (using $100 per credit hour as an example only):

Tuition Reward Values in a Fall or Spring Term:

# of Hours Enrolled For	# of Hours Earning Tuition Rewards	Value of Tuition Rewards
12		
13		
14		
15	3	$150
16	4	$200
17	5	$250
18	6	$300
19	7	$350
20	8	$400
21	9	$450
22	10	$500
23	11	$550
24	12	$600

Tuition reward values in a Summer term:

# of Hours Enrolled For	# of Hours Earning Tuition Rewards	Value of Tuition Rewards*
6		
7	1	$50
8	2	$100
9	3	$150
10	4	$200
11	5	$250
12	6	$300
13	7	$350
14	8	$400
15	9	$450
16	10	$500
17	11	$550
18	12	$600

  - Redeeming the tuition waiver - Earned waivers are redeemed and applied only toward tuition the following consecutive semester as long as the student enrolls in and completes a minimum of 12 credit hours in Spring and Fall or 3 credit hours in Summer. The student must maintain a cumulative 2.0 G.P.A. in order to remain eligible for the Program.

- TRI-C proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 including any summer term that begins before June 30, 2021. TRI-C expects to continue this program in future biennium contingent upon authority of the Chancellor as well as the success of the TRPP.

- The proposed waiver will affect approximately 300 students annually.

- TRI-C has several goals related to this tuition waiver request including the following:
  - Increases in student degree, certificate and program completion
  - Decreases in time from enrollment to completion
  - Education cost savings for students

- Since implementation in fall of 2015, 957 students have realized a savings of $222,417 and graduation rates increased from 2017 to 2018.

- TRI-C will continue to track student GPA's, retention rates, academic plans, and graduation rates of TTRP participants.

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 to reduce tuition under the TRI-C Tuition Rewards Program ("TTRP") as set forth above for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

This directive will take immediate effect.

Randy Gardner
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

mlc

Cuyahoga Community College

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May 8, 2019

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

Dear Chancellor Gardner:

Cuyahoga Community College proposes the continuation of its 15+ Perks program for all eligible Tri-C students. This Program began in fall 2015 and we are requesting continuation for the FY 2020-2021 biennium. We anticipate the Program to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority and approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Our formal request for the continuation of this tuition waiver, including an explanation of eligibility and an update on the impact and effectiveness of the program, is outlined below:

- **Specific tuition waiver request:**

  Students who enroll in and successfully complete at least 15 credit hours in fall or spring terms or at least seven credit hours in a summer term are eligible to earn reward dollars under the 15+ Perks program. In fall and spring terms, each successfully completed credit hour over 12 credit hours earns a reward equal to 50 percent of the cost of one credit hour (tuition and general fees); in summer, every successfully completed credit hour over six is eligible to earn a reward equal to 50 percent of the cost of one credit hour (tuition and general fees). Currently, tuition is $114.54 per credit hour for in-county residents; $144.08 per credit hour for residents of Ohio; and $271.19 for out of state residents. Tuition rates are subject to change.

  Earned rewards can be redeemed and applied toward tuition during the following consecutive semester as long as the student is enrolled in and successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours (spring/fall) or 3 credit hours (summer). The student must also maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA in order to remain eligible for the program. The program is extended to existing, new and transfer students with fewer than 75 college-level credits.

- **Rationale for this request:**

  The 15+ Perks program aligns with the State's recommendations that institutions foster campaigns to educate students about course loads needed to graduate on time and to establish graduation incentives. Tri-C administers this program toward meeting these goals by supporting students in decreasing their time to completion and encouraging consecutive term enrollment at an affordable rate.

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Cuyahoga Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

- **Time period during which the waiver would be in effect:**

  The 15+ Perks program was implemented beginning in the 2015 fall semester, and we request continuation for the FY20-21 biennium. We anticipate the program to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority and approval of the Chancellor. Students can participate in the program until they earn 75 college credit hours, provided they maintain eligibility.

- **Number of students that are anticipated to be served under the request and financial benefits to students:**

  Since the program's implementation in fall of 2015, 957 students have realized a savings of $222,417. In the academic year beginning summer 2017, 305 students earned $75,297.46 in rewards from the 15+ Perks program; this equates to an average savings of $247 per student, which represents 7.2% of the tuition and fees paid by an in-County student completing 30 credit hours in an academic year. We anticipate results to be similar in FY19 and for the years in the FY20-21 biennium.

- **Goals to be realized by virtue of the implementation of the waiver and methods that will be used to gather data and make determinations about whether such goals are accomplished:**

  The College is encouraged by the initial participation in and success of the 15+ Perks Program. Students enrolled in the program take an average of 16.4 credit hours per semester, exceeding the program requirements, and the IPEDS graduation rate for FY18 increased to 18.9% from 15.5% in FY17. We anticipate the success of this program to grow, and we expect to continue making progress toward the three main goals associated with the implementation of this program at its outset:

  - Increases in student degree, certificate and program completion
  - Decreases in time from enrollment to completion
  - Educational cost savings for students

  Student GPAs, retention rates, academic plans and graduation rates of program participants will continue to be closely monitored and compared to those students not participating in the program so that we can continue to evaluate the program's effectiveness and implementation.

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

Thank you for taking the time to review our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

Alex Johnson
President

Cuyahoga Community College

BOARD RESOLUTION
R2019-82

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

(A) The Board authorizes the reaffirmation and continuation of the 15+ Perks program in the FY20-21 biennium.

(B) This program will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

(C) The Executive Vice President for Administration & 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

Board of Trustees
District Administrative Services
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CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MATERIAL FOR REVIEW

BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

___ Academic and Student Affairs Committee

___ Community Affairs Committee

_X_ Management Committee

___ Investment Committee

SUBJECT: **Reaffirmation of the 15+ Perks Program**

COMMITTEE ACTION:

_X_ 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 is seeking approval to reaffirm the 15+ Perks tuition waiver program.

Prepared by:		Submitted by:		Approved by:	
Office:	Vice President, Finance and Business Services	Date:	2/28/19	Date:	3/1/19

Reaffirmation of the 15+ Perks Program

I. SUMMARY BACKGROUND

The 15+ Perks program aligns with the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency's recommendations that institutions foster campaigns to educate students about course loads needed to graduate on time and establish student graduation incentives. This program was passed by Board resolution in January 2015 and was instituted for students in the fall 2015 semester; the Board reaffirmed the program in January 2017.

Through this program, eligible students earn financial rewards when they successfully complete at least fifteen (15) credits in a fall or spring term or at least seven (7) credits in a summer term. Students who sign the 15+ Perks agreement for a particular semester and meet all the requirements for that semester earn a reward applied in the following semester equal to fifty percent (50%) of tuition paid for every credit hour over twelve (12) credit hours for fall or spring, or over six (6) credit hours for summer. Credit hour enrollment, cumulative GPA and successful course completion are confirmed at the end of each semester a student participates. Any rewards earned must be redeemed in the next term, with summer enrollment optional. In order to redeem a reward, a student must enroll in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours for a fall or a spring term, or a minimum of three (3) credit hours for a summer term.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education requires the Board of Trustees to reaffirm tuition waiver programs with each new biennium state budget. In accordance with that requirement, this resolution seeks the reaffirmation of the Board of Trustees to continue the 15+ Perks program in the FY20-21 biennium.

II. BOARD RESOLUTION

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

(A) The Board authorizes the reaffirmation and continuation of the 15+ Perks program in the FY20-21 biennium.

(B) This program will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

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