



# TRI-C DEDICATES FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL ON 9/11

Sculpture at KeyBank Public Safety Training Center includes World Trade Center beam

**A** solemn piece of history embodying the courage and sacrifice of first responders now rests within arm's reach of visitors at the KeyBank Public Safety Training Center at Cuyahoga Community College.

The new First Responders Memorial at Western Campus includes a section of steel beam salvaged from the World Trade Center after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The College unveiled the memorial Sept. 11.

The 11-foot-tall sculpture stands outside the center where Tri-C trains police, firefighters and rescue workers. It serves as a reminder of the potential perils that come with the career.

"This memorial recognizes our continuous commitment to all who dedicate their lives as first responders," Tri-C President Alex Johnson said. "These heroes risk everything to help others in times of unthinkable crisis and unfathomable odds."

The dedication ceremony included a moment of silence to remember the 2,977 lives lost during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The victims included 343 New York firefighters, 23 New York police officers and 37 Port Authority officers who died when the towers collapsed.

The World Trade Center beam in the memorial honors those who perished in the attacks and all of the first responders — past, present and future — who willingly answer when emergency calls.

The twisted section of steel beam hangs suspended within the sculpture between nine slabs of Indiana limestone. The stones include silhouettes of patches representing police, fire and emergency services.

Gaps between the stone slabs allow visitors to reach in and touch the beam, providing a tangible connection to the horrors of that morning 16 years ago.

Bob Szabo, who served as an adjunct faculty member in the College's Public Safety program, donated the beam for the memorial. He acquired it in 2010 to use in his classroom as a reminder of the lives lost on 9/11.

The sculpture was designed, fabricated and installed by Dale Johnson of Old World Stone Carving in Sunbury, Ohio.

A band of darker paving on the plaza surrounding the sculpture represents the shadow cast at 10:28 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001 — the time the North Tower collapsed. The shadow captures the permanence of this event.

The design of the memorial site allows the shadow of the sculpture to align with the darker paving on the plaza on the anniversary of the attacks.



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The Ohio Arts Council commissioned the project through its Ohio Percent for Art program.

Representatives from area police and fire departments attended the dedication, and Parma Heights Fire Chief Brian Sloan — a Tri-C alumnus — and Parma Heights Police Chief Dan Teel offered remarks during the program.

Sloan and Teel both talked of Tri-C's role in preparing first responders to protect Northeast Ohio communities. The College trains more emergency response professionals than any other academy in Ohio.

"The work that is being done here is some of the most important work in our community," Teel said. "Training the next generation of first responders

is invaluable to the safety and prosperity of the community."

Others who spoke during the ceremony include Trina Evans, chairperson of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation and executive vice president and director of Corporate Center at KeyCorp; Ken Emerick of the Ohio Arts Council; and sculptor Dale Johnson.

Representatives from Tri-C included Alex Johnson, the College's president; Donna Imhoff, Western Campus president; and Clayton Harris, vice president and dean of the Public Safety Center of Excellence.

More than 200 people — including classes of police and fire cadets from the College — attended the dedication.