

CCAC students and graduates tout the college's affordable, high-quality programs

Affordability remains central to the Community College of Allegheny County's (CCAC) mission. Currently, 81% of students graduate debt-free, reflecting the institution's commitment to minimizing financial barriers while delivering exceptional educational value. Additionally, 88% of graduates remain in the region, contributing to the local economy and strengthening the regional workforce

Below is a selection of quotes from graduates of CCAC, highlighting their experiences and the college's affordability:

*"I have received help from CCAC from day one. **I now have the chance for a better future through an education I can afford.** CCAC is giving a student like me a fresh start at life."*

"The biggest thing I tell [younger classmates] is not to give up. It's going to be hard, but it's going to be worth it. I'm already getting excited about graduation."

—Lauren C., Associate of Science in Civil Engineering Technology

"I honestly chose CCAC because financially, CCAC was the only option for me to further my education. Both of my parents and my older sister attended CCAC, and I knew I would be able to take affordable classes at the campus nearest to where I worked and lived. CCAC helped me grow as a person by helping me believe in myself—believe that if I try my hardest and really push myself to listen, learn, have consistency and try new things, I will go further than what I previously thought was possible."

—Tayler M., Graphic Design certificate & Graphic Communications, A.S., program graduate

"CCAC provided an affordable and convenient education to help me pursue a second career path. Having been a professional ballet dancer, upon 'retiring' from the stage, I knew I wanted to pursue a career that focused on injury management for dancers and athletes. The Massage Therapist program at CCAC was what I was looking for. Now, I am a licensed sports massage therapist, a NASM-certified performance enhancement specialist and a teacher at a local university."

—Katie R., Massage Therapist program graduate

*"The MLT program at CCAC is both challenging and fulfilling. It is guided by passionate and experienced professionals who build a strong base academically while also fostering the practical skills needed to be successful in a clinical lab—and ultimately do what is best for the patient. **This is a highly recommended and affordable program for those with an analytical mind who wish to move into a medical profession.**"*

—Melissa S., Medical Laboratory Technician program graduate

*"I owe my professional success to the CCAC Nursing program. It enables anyone who is willing to put in a little time and work to better themselves and begin an exciting career that gives you the privilege to serve others. **The alumni network, the support of the nursing faculty and dean, the affordable and flexible programs—it's the best education I have ever had and rivals any program in the country.**"*

—Michael S., Associate of Science in Nursing

*"When I finally decided to have a fresh new start as a woman in my forties, CCAC was there to connect me to the real world again. **CCAC offers affordable and accessible opportunities for moms like me.** While the uncertainty for the future pushed me back constantly, CCAC made me go forward gradually. With CCAC, I found my long-lost passion and confidence as myself."*

—June G., Occupational Therapy Assistant program graduate