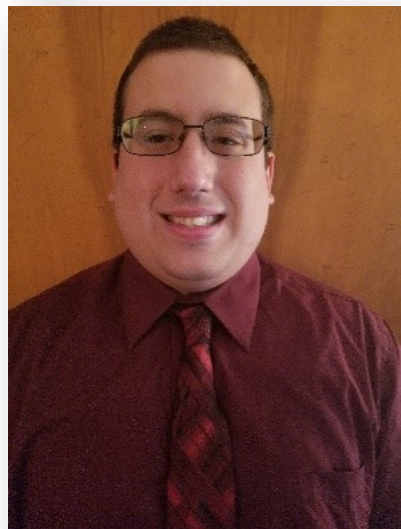
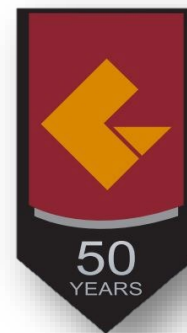




# *CVCC Alumni Spotlight*

## **Matthew Duplaga, Class of 2015**



2015 graduate, Matthew Duplaga, attended CVCC's Adult Education Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. Matthew has fond memories of "scenarios days" throughout the EMT program because he and his fellow classmates had the opportunity to work together as a team and put everything they had learned thus far to the test. He also really appreciated the clinical experience with fire departments as well as in hospital emergency rooms. He noted, " [We got] a taste of what we're going to be doing and seeing." Matthew chose to attend CVCC's EMT program because of the "fire explorer" program he experienced through the Broadview Heights Fire Department back during his high school years. Current CVCC high school Fire and EMS Academy program instructor, Mark Daily, was the lead instructor of the explorers program. That program allowed Matthew and his peers to observe "live" scenarios using the local fire department's resources, like the burn house, equipment, and vehicles. That experience ultimately sparked Matthew's interest. Upon hearing about CVCC's quality program reputation, Matthew knew this is where he needed to be!

After graduating from CVCC, he went on to pass the National Registry for EMT. Matthew obtained a job working for Rural/Metro Ambulance as an EMT-Basic for most of 2016. He then went through the Fire-Rescue Training Academy at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma and obtained Firefighter Level 2. Matthew continued onto Paramedic school at UH Parma Paramedic Training Center from September 2016 to October 2017. Matthew is proud to say that he graduated with the most clinical hours of his class, with 900 hours, as well as the most I.V.s, at 275, and blood draws at 375. Moving forward, Mathew gained quality experience and enjoyed working at the East Cleveland and Macedonia Fire Departments and at University Hospital Parma Medical Center Emergency Department. He also acquired experience working with Physicians Ambulance where he assisted during Cleveland sporting events, the NFL draft, college sporting events and automotive races. Additionally, Mathew obtained certification to be an Assistant EMS Instructor in spring 2019; he started helping teach CVCC's Adult Education EMT program with lead instructor, Dan Zezena. On top of his work experience and certifications, from the time Matthew graduated from CVCC to the time he was hired as an assistant instructor, he volunteered his time to help with the Adult Education EMT program. It is beyond clear that Matthew took every opportunity he could to help him keep moving forward in this field; how inspirational!

Currently, Matthew works at CVCC as an Assistant EMS Instructor, as well as a Firefighter-Paramedic at Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department. Matthew is currently working on getting certified to be a head EMS instructor. Matthew expressed, "I love what I do and who I work with, I would not trade it." It is quite evident that Matthew has continued to gain training and work experience to best serve in the EMT/Paramedic field, as well as help others along the way. CVCC is thrilled to have alumni like Matthew, and is honored to be a part of his success!