

The Wayne County Schools Career Center Outstanding Business Partner for September 2008 is Tricia Marie's Salon. Tricia Marie's is located on Liberty Street in Wooster, and owned and managed by Tricia Mollica Walker.

Tricia was a 1993 graduate of Chippewa High School and the Career Center's Cosmetology program. She received the Distinguished Alumni award in 2004.

She opened Tricia Marie's in 2003 in Shreve, then moved to Liberty Street Commons in Wooster in 2004. Tricia Marie's is a 12-chair salon with six stylists coming from the Career Center Cosmetology program, and a total of 15 staff. Tricia participates in the cosmetology internship program each year, and stylists are members of the program's advisory committee. Representatives from the business help the cosmetology students learn new skills and promote professional development.

Her salon has received the Top 200 Salons honor by "Salon Today" magazine in both 2007 and 2008. A plaque in the business, signed by editor Laurel Smoke, says Tricia Marie's is "one of the fastest-growing salons in North America," and commended it for outstanding service, a positive work environment, and willingness to share success strategies with other businesses. Tricia Marie's was also featured in the the July 2007 issue of "Marie Claire" magazine.

Tricia Marie's supported the Career Center's levy efforts by posting our levy sign in their salon, and wearing Career Center Alumni and Supporter badges last fall. They provide judges for local and regional SkillsUSA contests.

"Tricia is an outstanding young woman in our community," said senior cosmetology instructor Rosemary Smucker. "She owns and operates a total spa salon. She is not only active in the community, but is also recognized in many states for her professional skills as an artistic educator."

The Wayne County Schools Career Center would like to thank Tricia Marie for her continued support and her contributions to Wayne County and the surrounding area.