

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Jan. 8, 2016

This year's project house is moving along very well and in addition to great leadership by senior Carpentry instructor Steve Mapes and senior Electrical Technologies instructor Scott Brohard and their students, a lot of credit goes to Aaron McManes, who is serving this year as the project manager.



Aaron McManes, center, worked with senior carpentry students recently to install the trusses on the project house.

Aaron, the junior Carpentry instructor, has been working with Steve and Scott on an as-needed basis on the site the past couple of years. He told Gary Robinson that he would be interested in helping out more.



Aaron McManes

As project manager, Aaron takes care of ordering materials, lining up subcontractors, getting permits and scheduling the project phases.

"I'm taking the leg-work out of it for Steve and Scott," Aaron explained. "They tell me what they need and when they need it and I get the bids."

With Steve, Scott and Aaron working together, the project house is ahead of schedule. And Aaron enjoys the opportunity to be back on a job site several days a week.

After high school, Aaron attended Shawnee State University where he studied plastics engineering but after working in the field for a few years, decided it wasn't for him.

He took a test to join the carpenters union and spent 10 years working in commercial construction.

"In the union, I was given apprentices to work

with and I really liked helping them learn," Aaron said. "I've always liked working with kids."

He went back to school to get his teaching license and started at Pickaway-Ross in 2013.

Not only does he love working with kids, he thinks he and Steve complement each other in their teaching approaches.

"My background is in commercial and Steve's is in residential (construction) so we're able to teach the students different things."

Now in his third year at Pickaway-Ross and as project manager this year, he's able to see his past students on the job site. Their work makes him proud.

"It's nice to see them out there working hard for Steve."

But also, he said, "it's nice (for me) to get out there. I love being on the job site."

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.