

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Jan. 15, 2016

Cosmetology instructor Donna Patrick came to career-tech education after owning a salon for 18 years.



Donna's career choice came from an offer from her parents, who said they could afford to send her to what was then the Ohio State Schools of Cosmetology.

And she fell in love with the profession, she said.

After completing the program, she owned the Hair Gallery and then Designs by Donna, both in Circleville. Then she decided she wanted to do something else and liked the idea of teaching.

"I got to a place in my career that I wanted to give back," she said. "I had been in my field long enough that I felt I had something to contribute."

Donna returned to Pickaway-Ross this fall after eight years at Eastland-Fairfield and, before that, four years at Pickaway-Ross.

"It's so neat to see what students can accomplish, to see them go from not knowing to knowing."

Donna is not just a proponent of learning for her students. She is a student herself, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Learning, Design & Technology at Bowling Green State University.

"I want to design curriculum within Blackboard that will help (students) prepare for college classes," she said.

Her former students have taken their cosmetology credentials and worked their way through college, with several choosing to move to health care.

"We're held to standards to protect the public,"



Cosmetology instructor Donna Patrick works with senior Bree Pierce in the lab.

Donna said.

"So I think it's a natural path" from cosmetology to health care.

In addition to teaching, Donna shares her passion for career-tech education by serving as an advisor for SkillsUSA, a career and technical student organization that has about 60 percent of Pickaway-Ross' students.

"We take high school students and prepare them to be well-rounded employees. SkillsUSA helps with that."

She is working with her co-advisors – Mark Johnston, Aaron McManes and Tammy Tipton – to enter SkillsUSA's Chapter Excellence Program, which honors a chapter's achievements as it relates to SkillsUSA's frameworks for personal, workplace and technical skills.

"We get to focus on what our chapter is doing and share that with the nation," Donna said.

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