

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 29, 2019

A recent collaboration between Chillicothe High School and Adult Education's Business & Career Services department resulted in a highly customized program for more than a dozen students.



The seniors needed some points to fulfill their graduation requirements and CHS Principal Dustin Weaver contacted Rhonda Lawless, Business & Career Services coordinator, about them taking a senior credential course.

Last fall, Adult Education instructor Tracey Watson started teaching the NCCER Core certification and Level 1 Construction Craft Laborer course at Chillicothe High School with Dwayne Hall, a retired Pickaway-Ross science teacher.

"Once we identified the program that would work, we approached Tracey," said Rhonda. "We knew he had the skills to teach this class."

Tracey completed Pickaway-Ross' Carpentry program in 1981 and spent four years in the Air Force as a carpenter. He then spent his career working in and around the trades and now is the manager at the Home Center in Circleville.

But he has wanted to be a teacher and loves working as an instructor for Adult Education.

"My boss (at the Home Center) was so very gracious about letting me be off in the mornings to teach at Chillicothe High School," for the class that meets from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

"I love to teach. I love to give back," Tracey said.

Carrie Fife, director of Adult Education, said offering the course at the high school was different.

"Although it's rare for Adult Education to be in our home schools offering programs, we can assist schools in situations where a credential is a critical need. We were happy to help CHS ensure these students would meet their graduation requirements."

Students in the 172-hour course are learning labor skills including but not limited to operating hand and power tools of all types; cleaning and preparing sites; digging trenches; setting braces to support the sides of excavations; erecting scaffolding; cleaning up rubble, debris and other waste materials; and assisting other craftspeople.

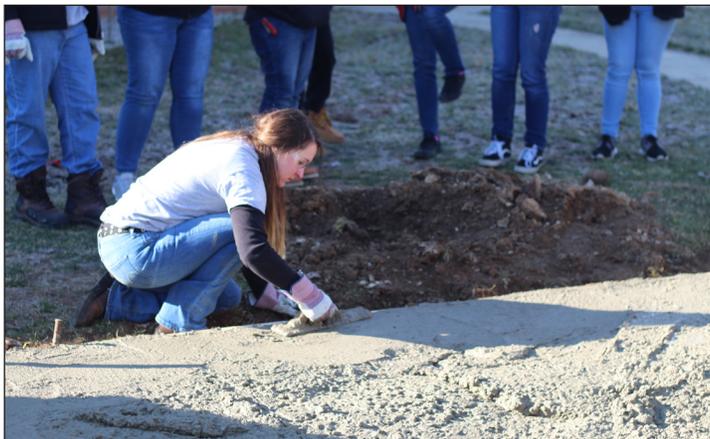
A few weeks ago, the students came to Pickaway-Ross' main campus to assist with pouring concrete where a sinkhole had developed on the west side of the building by the Receiving Department.

The activity provided a hands-on experience as well as fulfilling a proficiency qualification.

It also resonated with the students.

"Once we started the hands-on stuff, they really liked it," Tracey said. "They really liked pouring the concrete. I've never seen them so engaged."

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



Chillicothe High School students taking a Construction Craft Laborer course poured concrete to repair an area of walkway near the superintendent's office that had been damaged by a sinkhole.