

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 31, 2017

Allen Koker may be new to our campus but he brings 20 years of experience in career-based intervention.



Allen started working for Pickaway-Ross as Westfall's CBI instructor in 1994. Last fall he came to the main campus and works with Kim Graves as the CBI apprenticeship coordinator.

Allen's focus is the transportation academy, working with instructors and students in five of our programs.

"It's fairly easy promoting our students in the transportation academy to potential employers because (students) have a specific skill," he said.

"Our employer-satisfaction rate is very high."

He's not in his office – located in the Learning Lab area of the library – much because his job requires him to be all over campus and in the community.

Most mornings he visits the labs to observe students. This gives him an idea of how they will perform on the job.

"You can really get a good idea of students' initiative and work ethic," Allen said of observing students. "And you don't have to spend a lot of time to observe that.

"Those kids will be at the top of the list for job placement."

One of his success stories is Adam Evans, a senior in Michael Shepherd's Diesel & Heavy Truck Mechanics program.

Adam was hired part time at Nourse in Chillicothe as a diesel mechanic in September. After



Allen Koker, far left, talks with Roger Page about his Automotive students.

only about six months, he was hired full time as a trailer tech at G&J Pepsi in Columbus.

"I was just there last week and they love him," Allen said. "He's a workaholic."

While Adam still has some academic classes to complete, he's been able to get that done while working full time.



Adam Evans

"Academic teachers have been very receptive about our students going to work," Allen said.

And when he's not visiting labs or working with instructors and students on campus, he's visiting employers, either to evaluate students or line up jobs for them.

Currently the athletic director for Zane Trace and a former basketball coach, Allen said his two worlds work well together.

"My contacts in the sports world have helped me with finding employees for employers," he said.

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