

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • April 10, 2015

Career and Technical Education Supervisor Gary Robinson added another title last month after he was inducted as president of OTIESA – the Ohio Trade and Industrial Education Supervisors Association.



Gary Robinson poses with Ohio Sen. Bob Peterson, left, and state Rep. Gary Scherer at the Statehouse recently.

Gary has been a member of the association since 2007 and says the group's ability to bring together career-technical education supervisors is an asset to an educator. OTIESA is responsible for informing career-technical administrative supervisors of changes in today's CTE world.

"With more than 80 career center districts, as well as parochial schools offering career-tech programs, OTIESA's statewide conferences provide important legislation and state Department of Education updates.

"We can all be informed of legislative changes and network with one another, see how something that works at one career center may benefit another," Gary said.

Gary said OTIESA is one of the many leadership avenues he's been able to pursue since joining Pickaway-Ross in 2011.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to expand and learn," he said.

Gary has been cited for his work

in education, being awarded the Great Lakes Governors Award for education and the Pioneering Partners Award for innovation in teaching. He has also attended the Shoemaker Institute, a 10-month leadership development program designed for CTE administrators.

As OTIESA president, Gary has been appointed to the SkillsUSA State Executive Committee, which organizes and regulates the Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) activities for more than 17,000 career-tech students in Ohio.

That role will gel nicely with his goal to provide more opportunities for CTSO students to network with business and industry.

"There is a huge gap between retiring blue-collar workers and new workers," Gary said. "Industry is expressing a need and wanting to develop relationships with qualified entry-level employees."

A long-time career-technical educator, Gary said he has not seen this degree of interest by industry before.

"I think this is a wonderful marriage and it's going to be here for a long time."

Other goals Gary has as president is to develop a Web site that appeals more to youth to reach out to the younger generation.

Gov. Kasich's push to reach that demographic resonates with Gary.

"Introducing younger students to career-tech is going to be very good for us," he said.

"When we can drill down it gives them a reality check on what they are good at and start them off on a positive note."

Gary's role as president and his appreciation of the younger generation is evident in his day-to-day role at Pickaway-Ross.

"There are so many bright, interested, imaginative people here. To interact with them and be inspired by new ideas is very motivating."

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center.