

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • April 27, 2018

The Transportation Academy's job and college fair last Friday was a success as the organizers made some changes from its inaugural event last year.



Organized by Bob Edwards and Allen Koker, students in Auto Collision Repair, Automotive Technologies, Diesel & Heavy Truck Mechanics, High-Performance Automotive Technologies and Outdoor Power Technologies were placed in small groups and attended an informational session led by NAPA before rotating among seven sessions.

Students were able to meet with representatives from Aerotek, Auto Zone, I Force, JD Equipment, NAPA, Nathan Skaggs Trucking, Ross County Garage, Walmart Distribution, mechanics Bob Detty and Greg Moore, and UNOH and UTI.

Bob and Allen were pleased with this year's event and think the rotation format worked well.

"Last year was too chaotic," Bob said of changing the set-up from everybody meeting in a single classroom. "This allowed for better control," with students meeting in different classrooms with each organization for 8 minutes.

Allen was pleased with the number of organizations that sent a representative, allowing for the 82 students to be broken up into smaller groups.

"I was also happy that employers emphasized soft skills. The kids can't hear that enough," he said.

Allen said he heard from students that they were excited to learn about opportunities available in trades.

JD Equipment, which has stores in Lancaster and Washington Court House, among other locations, has an articulation with Owen's Community College.

"A few of our students were interested in that," Allen said.

Terrence Weaver, an account recruiting manager for



Chuck Schrader with the Ross County Garage spoke with students about his job. Chuck completed Pickaway-Ross' Automotive program in 1979.

Aerotek, said he thinks the job fair is a great opportunity "to start building those relationships with students."

Aerotek, a staffing service, placed its first Pickaway-Ross student in a job in 2015. Today, that student is still at Horton Emergency Vehicles, Terrence said.



Also this week, our MADE ambassadors went to Thursday's We Are the Majority rally in Columbus,



taking part with more than 2,100 middle and high school students across Ohio to advocate for healthful lifestyles and youth-led prevention.

And on Friday, nearly three dozens students were host to their home school superintendents during the Superintendent's Lunch. After having lunch, students provided tours of their labs to their guests.

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