

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Aug. 24, 2018

Jason Vesey recognizes that it's easy to go down a path and realize that it might not be the right one.

Jason, who was hired as Pickaway-Ross' director of Secondary Education, got into teaching after initially majoring in finance at Ohio University.

"I realized finance wasn't my passion," Jason said.

But history was.

"And I had a passion for working with kids. I had some professors in college who were inspiring and I wanted to spread that love of history to kids."

Jason spent 14 years fulfilling that passion, teaching American and World History, Mock Trial and Historical Literature at Lynchburg-Clay Local Schools.

Teaching at the middle school level was a challenge, he said — "That's what happened to my hair" — but the close-knit culture that he experienced at Lynchburg is one he tries to re-create.

Knowing that there are different paths after high school, he appreciates the opportunities that career-technical education can offer students.

Before joining Pickaway-Ross, Jason was director at the Ohio Valley Career & Technical Center, which serves four schools in Adams County and has a student population of 550.

His overall understanding of the big picture of running a district made him one of the top candidates we interviewed.

And his teaching background shows strong skills in student promotions, community and home school relations, and a success with his former school's career and technical student organizations.

"Career and technical student organizations are a real source of pride for students and staff, as well a great promotion for the school," Jason said.

"It gives kids an opportunity to experience



Jason Vesey talks to staff members during last week's District Professional Day.

teamwork and travel."

For the first year, Jason and I agree that his getting acclimated to Pickaway-Ross is Goal No. 1.

"I hope to use this first year to see where we are; try to assess where our successes are and where we can do better," he said.

Jason started here in July and is looking forward to being involved with students.

"I want to be a champion for them," he said.



Last week we acknowledged those employees who have dedicated their careers to Pickaway-Ross. It was an honor to recognize:

- Bobbi Morrison (25 years);
- Scott Brohard, Steve Mapes and Mary Newman (20 years);
- Angie Dresbach, Brian Morrison, Connie Page, Dave Pentecost and Josh Younge (15 years);
- Kelly Barnett, Andy Cochenour and Kirk Hewitt (10 years)
- Brian Cooper, Lisa Corcoran-DeTTY, Brian Graves, Erika Konowalow, Deb Leasure, Aaron McManes, Vinch Perhach, Anthony Southworth, Toby Walls-Waller and Ashley Wilburn (5 years).

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