

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Aug. 28, 2015

When Jamie Nash was in high school, his goals were simple: He would join the military and then go to college.



But, as he told staff members and students last week, because he chose to attend Pickaway-Ross, his opportunities multiplied.

Jamie, Pickaway-Ross' director of Secondary Education, enrolled in the career center's Engineering Graphics program in 1989.

During his senior year he got an internship at what was Mead Paper and was hired full time by an environmental contractor after he graduated in 1991. Initially, it was to be a summer job until he left for the Army. But he decided to stay with the company for three years.

"I loved the job," he said of being a field engineer. "Every day I learned something. It gave me a lot of opportunities that I never would have gotten if not for Pickaway-Ross."

Jamie went to college, earning associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees all while working, first at Mead and then at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction.

As a teacher and administrator, he prepared adult learners for careers upon their release.

"We placed 78 percent of (program) completers in jobs in Ohio and surrounding states," Jamie said.

After 17 years with the corrections department, working with adult offenders and later with the Ohio Central School System, Jamie decided to pursue education from another angle and became principal at Buckeye United School District, where he developed, designed and implemented curricula for high-risk students.

So it made sense for him in 2011 to join the Ohio



Jamie Nash, director of Secondary Education, speaks to juniors last week during an introduction session.

Department of Education as assistant director in the Office for Exceptional Children and later become associate director of the Office of Career-Technical Education.

While he had an impact in developing career-technical education throughout Ohio, it wasn't his dream job.

For that, he had to return to Pickaway-Ross.

"Pickaway-Ross is one of the best career centers in the state," Jamie said. "To be a part of the district that gave me a start and put me on the path to do all I have is great."

Jamie's excited about being at Pickaway-Ross and has great ideas for starting career-technical education at younger grades and expanding what is available to juniors and seniors.

"I'd like to see Pickaway-Ross turn into a powerhouse for workforce development, industry credentials and secondary options.

"I learned half my trade at school. I learned the other half on the job. That's a good model."

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