

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 18, 2015

**A**llen Kiger, our new supervisor of Off-Campus Programs, is a man of focus.



He had focus when he was a 10th-grader deciding to enroll at C-TEC to study Diversified Drafting.

He had focus when he attended Ohio State University to study architecture.

And he had focus when he left Tolles Career & Technical Center after four years as a director to join Pickaway-Ross last year as the pre-engineering instructor for our satellite program at Logan Elm.

That focus is what Allen now is honing leading Off-Campus Programs.

Allen enjoyed the opportunity last year to be back in the classroom and provide students with experiences in a variety of engineering fields.

But Allen – who has nearly a decade of experience in business and industry – thought he might be of more use at Pickaway-Ross in a supervisor role.

He is excited to grow Off-Campus Programs and get the message about career-technical education to children in younger grades.

“We are missing a key part to getting kids into career exploration at a younger age,” Allen said. “We need to be helping them make a plan for the next level. That is so important for them to make intelligent and informed decisions.”

Allen said a goal is to create programs in fields such as information technologies, logistics and business.



Allen Kiger, left, and Matt Wilson, Sports Medicine Technology instructor, talk about the program that started this year. The program is offered in partnership with Ohio University – Chillicothe at the college’s Shoemaker Center.

“These are top-growth careers,” Allen said.

Allen said encouraging students to be considering careers at a younger age is crucial to their success.

“By the end of 10th grade, they should have a plan in place to achieve their goals.”

While Allen studied architecture at Ohio State and was able to get an interview at an architectural firm right after graduation, he said it was his career-tech education that allowed him to do the job.

“What I learned at the career center got me the job. I didn’t learn AutoCAD in four years at OSU. I did learn it at my career center.

“Going to a career center was the best decision I ever made.”

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