

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 22, 2017

Dr. Marilyn J. Carnes was committed to education.

Since being appointed to the Zane Trace Local Schools Board of Education in 1975, she sought out opportunities to be involved in helping shape the education of thousands of young people in several districts.



In the past 42 years, Marilyn also served on Pickaway-Ross' board and the Ross-Pike Educational School Board.

Marilyn died last week at the age of 81 and her absence will be felt by those who worked with her and those who benefited from her dedication to schools and education.

Marilyn was one of the kindest and most caring people I've been associated with. She always based her decisions on what was in our students' best interests.

An accountant by profession, Marilyn wanted to excel in her role as a board member so much that she went back to school to get a master's degree in education and then her doctorate at 72.

"When most people are thinking I don't want to do this anymore, she was taking it to the next level," said Byron Lloyd, president of Pickaway-Ross' board and a colleague of Marilyn's for more than 25 years.

That education paid off for her fellow board members as she was always the first to volunteer to read the career center's courses of study.

"She would take them all and read them and then give a detailed report when (the board) would go to approve them," said Jeff Hartmus, board vice president and another long-time friend.



Late last year, Dr. Marilyn J. Carnes was recognized for her 30 years as a Pickaway-Ross board member and by the OSBA for her 40 years of service to that state board.

Board member Darrell Cottrill met Marilyn in grade school and their paths intersected throughout their lives, most recently on Pickaway-Ross' board.

"When I first got on the (PRCTC) board, I would listen to what she said. She was very knowledgeable."

In the past, when asked about why she has given so much of her time to education, Marilyn said she thinks the field is very important and considered it a priority. For her role, she said, "I want to be a part of providing an excellent education and opportunities for learning for all our children."

Late last year, Marilyn received two honors for her decades of service: being recognized for her 30 years as a Pickaway-Ross board member and recognized by the OSBA for her 40 years of service to that state board.

Yet, said Jeff, she always said she wanted to do more.

"Giving was her life," he said. "She really cared about the school and the programs."

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