

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Oct. 24, 2014

It is nice to be recognized for the work you do. At the beginning of each school year, Pickaway-Ross employees are recognized for their years of service and Steve Winegardner – through staff member nominations – recognizes employees through his Caught You Doing Something Good award during the school year.



This month, satellite teacher Amy Groff, who teaches Family & Consumer Studies at Chillicothe High School, was honored by the State Treasurer of Ohio's office for her work with financial literacy.

Amy Groff has been using the EverFi program with her students for three years and was recognized by the state for her innovative approach.

EverFi is an interactive financial literacy program that helps students understand financial concepts. The state requires that all students take a personal finance education course before graduating. Chillicothe High School is able to use EverFi through a grant from Vinton County National Bank.

Lauren Bowen, a regional representative for Treasurer Josh Mandel's office, observed Groff using EverFi in her classroom and was impressed.

"She not only uses the interactive tools (of EverFi) but elaborates on them and that adds value to what the kids are learning," Bowen said. "She adds her own curriculum and it's quite extensive."

Bowen presented to Groff, on Mandel's behalf, a proclamation highlighting her outstanding work as a classroom teacher to promote awareness and teach about financial literacy.

Groff said the EverFi program, which employs real-life examples, really helps youth connect with financial learning concepts.

"You have to relate it to what they enjoy," Groff said.



Linda Trimmer, left, supervisor for Off-Campus programs, and Lauren Bowen, right, with the State Treasurer's office, visited Chillicothe High School where Amy Groff was presented with a proclamation.

"And EverFi does that."

Through EverFi, Groff said, students are able to create a budget, reconcile a bank statement, learn about financial aid, retirement and investments. The program also is able to tailor the lesson content to the student's learning level based on a survey the students complete.

Plus, Groff said, students love technology and EverFi gives them an opportunity to use it in a learning environment.

Groff said she was very proud to be recognized by the treasurer but didn't need a proclamation; being appreciated was an honor in itself.

Jeff Fisher, principal at CHS, said he was also quite proud when informed of Groff's honor.

"We have made a long-term commitment to financial literacy at CHS and Amy's efforts have made our instruction of this topic meaningful and impactful."

"She cares deeply about students and is most interested in finding ways to instruct her students that are meaningful. (Amy) is training our students to better understand life skills" they will need in the future.

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