

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Oct. 26, 2018

**A** Pickaway-Ross program will be working behind the scenes at this year's OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show Nov. 11-13 in Columbus.

Vanessa George, a satellite instructor at Chillicothe High School, applied for her Digital Media students to produce a video documentary of this year's conference that will be used to promote the event next year, said Scott Gerfen, OSBA communication manager.

This is a first-time experience for Vanessa and her students and she is excited about the opportunity.

"I am proud of my students because this opportunity reflects their daily efforts," she said. "Ultimately, it is the students who do the work. I am just there to guide them."

Vanessa is in her third year as a Pickaway-Ross satellite instructor, with a background in broadcasting. Vanessa studied journalism and communication at Ohio State University and worked for iHeartMedia as air talent and assisted with production.

While she didn't attend Pickaway-Ross, she recognizes the value of career-technical education and encourages introducing kids to careers at young ages.

She credits her love of broadcasting to a class trip she took to COSI in Columbus.

"I was in the second grade and I saw a news booth at COSI. I got to do my own weather report and I still remember it: 'Partly cloudy with a chance to rain cornflakes,'" Vanessa said, adding that was when she knew she wanted to be a radio broadcaster.

While in college, she did consider becoming a teacher but felt she didn't have the confidence then. Now, with a career in broadcasting under her belt, she feels that she is able to guide high school students.

"I am able to tell students, 'Look, what I'm tell-



Vanessa George, left, shows Chillicothe High School senior Shelby Dunham, center, how to attach a teleprompter to the camera for junior Hannah Barnes to read the school's announcements.

ing you to do, I do.' I can relate to their fears."

Vanessa said she is impressed by their growth through the course of the program and expects that will be evident when they create the documentary for OSBA.

"The beauty of this opportunity is that I get to play off of my students' strengths and create a well-rounded team."

She plans to select a few students from Video Production, Video Broadcasting, Motion Graphics and Digital Image Editing.

"This project will be stronger because of the collaboration between the students in each of my pathway courses."

In career-technical education we encourage partnership with the business community and incorporate work-based examples to help drive home concepts learned in the classroom.

This opportunity to work with OSBA is another fine example of the work we encourage for our students and reinforces the opportunities a career-technical education has for our students.

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