

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 3, 2017

Pickaway-Ross Adult Education continues to reap accolades thanks to its work with the Adult Diploma Program.



Carrie Fife, director of Adult Education, along with students and an employer, were invited to speak to the state Board of Education recently about some of the department's accomplishments.

Adult Education has been administering the Adult Diploma Program for two years now and its successes are earning it a statewide reputation.

Carrie and her team have become leaders in the state with this initiative and that makes Pickaway-Ross look good.

When speaking to the state Board, Carrie noted some impressive statistics:

- 812 students have gotten diplomas through the Adult Diploma Program in the state;
- 10 percent of them attended Pickaway-Ross;
- 90 percent of Adult Diploma students from Pickaway-Ross entered the workforce or continued their education after completing the program.

"What people are doing with the education after they finish is the important thing," she said. "They are bettering themselves and their families."

The Adult Diploma Program and 22+ Adult High School Diploma are great opportunities to get the more than 1 million Ohioans without a high school diploma or GED on track for better employment and further educational opportunities.

A parent who is the first person in a family to get a diploma and has children then is more invested in making sure the children get an education, Carrie



TOP LEFT: Nicholas Leist was presented with his Adult Diploma the day after he attended the State Board of Education meeting. Nicholas is now in Adult Education's Welding program.

BOTTOM LEFT: With Nicholas are Andy Young (left) with MedCare; Shawn Cottrell, who completed the EMT-Basic program and now is a Paramedic student and works at MedCare; and Carrie Fife.



said.

"The impact that getting a diploma can have on a family is immeasurable."

Carrie is happy with the results that

Pickaway-Ross is getting and has been sharing information with others schools.

But the crucial ingredient is hard to replicate.

"At the heart of why we're successful is the quality of our instructors in our credential training programs and Aspire," she said.

Carrie also thinks that valuing students' accomplishments is a big part of the programs' successes.

"We make a big deal out of (students' successes) because we recognize that it is a big deal.

"For many students, this is the first time they've had success in education and we want to keep that momentum going," she said.

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