

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 7, 2014

Ashley Wilburn may be new to the halls of Pickaway-Ross, but she feels like she has come home.



Ashley, who teaches Interactive Digital Arts, joined the Chillicothe campus this year after teaching a similar program at Paint Valley last year as one of our satellite instructors.

But her connection to career-tech education extends back several years, to her time as a recruiter for DeVry. Her job for six years included visits to career centers to encourage students to continue their education at DeVry.

Among those career centers she visited was Pickaway-Ross, where she met with students in Tony Eallonardo and Ginger Karr's classes.

"I loved the career-tech setting," she said. "I loved going into the classrooms.

"When I learned that Mrs. Karr was retiring, it seemed like the opportunity that I had been patiently waiting for. Although I was not hired for that position, I was called a year later to interview for the position at Paint Valley. This was a chance for me to do something that I was passionate about."

Ashley initially wanted to be a Web designer, but did not take to programming, she said. By switching to business information at DeVry, she was able to study graphic design and marketing, which suited her creative side.

She seeks to encourage her students to tap into their creative sides while preparing them for employability.

"The program is for a student who is very creative



Ashley Wilburn said teaching Interactive Digital Arts at Pickaway-Ross is the perfect job for her, as she gets to merge her love of education and technology.

mindful, but not necessarily an artist – I'm not an artist – who wants to take those creative skills and apply them in the work force."

Going from having 60 students at Paint Valley to 20 this year is an opportunity Ashley welcomes, explaining that once a month, she sits down with each student to set a goal and a path for how to meet that goal.

"I get a chance to help my students develop a plan for how to be successful," Ashley said, adding that working with Holly Smith is a great opportunity.

"We have the same vision for our students and our program and are very excited about the ideas we generate when we put our heads together."

Looking back on her own high school career, Ashley said she was interested in technology and education.

"It came full circle this year," she said.

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