

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 9, 2018

Last Saturday, dozens of staff members and students volunteered their time at this year's Career Tech Kids Day.

It's just one example of how the Pickaway-Ross community comes together to make something a success.

Another example comes from our High Schools That Work team.

TTT Tuesday — Teachers Teaching Teachers on Tuesdays — is just what the name implies: A professional development program for teachers taught by their peers.

"The original idea stemmed from hearing over the years that professional development from people outside the school often failed to address the real-world challenges of PRCTC's career tech labs and academic classrooms," said Tim Vollet, who has taken the lead on scheduling topics and finding presenters.

"We thought teachers might be more comfortable learning from their peers," Verdie Williams said of the idea to tap teachers as presenters.

Verdie and Tea McCaulla have been tireless in serving as weekly presenters, and Chris Cecil, Polly Compher, Alex Deaton, Tony Eallonardo, Katie Hamel, Ryan Holbrook, Kevin Krebs, Cara Peecher, Steve Semancik and Kim Taylor have joined Tim in presenting sessions.

"Our teachers have really stepped up and volunteered their time to share what is working in their classrooms with their colleagues," Tim said.

Sessions topics offered have included trauma-informed care, Kahoot!, using Dropbox, Surface Pro, Outlook and Google programs and whiteboards, and eTPES.

In addition to sessions offered before and after school, staff members can also choose to take classes online.

The overall goal of TTT, said Tim and Verdie, is



Tea McCaulla teaches Michael Shepherd and Katie Hamel about using add-ons in Google Docs during one of this week's Teachers Teaching Teachers sessions.

to provide professional development topics that staff members want at times that are convenient to them.

Michael Shepherd has taken several of the sessions and especially likes the online offerings.

"I get to do it on my own time and my own pace," Michael said.

"It's been helpful to me as a new teacher."

Verdie said one of the benefits for her as a teacher is the opportunity to get to work with colleagues.

"I enjoy being able to get to know co-workers I didn't know very well."

She also appreciates the somewhat personalized nature of the sessions.

"Some technology-based professional development may not be applicable for some lab teachers. (TTT) allows those who do use it to get involved in it."

Teachers who have an idea for a topic they'd like to learn or present should contact Tim.

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