

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 21, 2014

To many, the idea of a school field trip connotes a day off from learning. At Pickaway-Ross, that couldn't be farther from the truth.



Not only do our students continue the learning process with trips to the Statehouse and the Electrical Trades Center, for example, but the excursions also offer a glimpse into the career for which they are training.

Last week, Aaron McManes, junior carpentry instructor, and Kim Graves, apprenticeship coordinator, took 16 juniors and six seniors from the carpentry program to Ohio State University, where they visited Cleveland Construction's job site.

Jeff Randall with Cleveland Construction spoke to carpentry students at the school in October and visited the school's project houses. He proposed to Graves that a field trip to a commercial job site would be a good experience for the students.

"The actual visual experience is so much more valuable than me coming in and showing them slides," Jeff said. "Especially on a day like this when it's a little cold. It gives them something to think about."



Junior and senior carpentry students check out the top floor of what will be an eight-story dormitory on Ohio State University's campus.

The tour of OSU's North Residential District was led by James DeGraw, a senior at OSU and Messer Construction's student engagement coordinator.

James explained to the group that the construction project – 10 buildings plus green spaces – is a design/build project, allowing the architects and construction teams to work together more efficiently.

"It's more cost-efficient," James said. "We make better decisions and build better buildings."

The group toured an eight-story dormitory that is still under construction. When it is completed next fall, it will house 500 freshmen and sophomores.

Visiting the eighth floor was the highlight for several of the Pickaway-Ross students.

"I really liked looking out the

windows at the top," said Christopher Starkey, a junior from Logan Elm. Starkey plans to become a carpenter, but doesn't know if he likes commercial or residential better. Kayley Ritchhart, from Southeastern, said she's enjoying the experience of the carpentry program.

As a senior, she works every other week on Pickaway-Ross' project house. "I like seeing it come together," she said.

Kayley and the other seniors can thank Mindy Frejkowski, school nurse, for being able to go on the trip.

When it was learned that there weren't enough hard hats, Mindy reached out to a colleague at a Circleville manufacturing plant, who donated eight hard hats.

From the visit by Jeff Randall in October to the visit to the job site this month, field trips illustrate the cooperation in learning that Pickaway-Ross pursues outside our walls.

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