

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 4, 2015

As we are truly in the holiday season, it makes me happy to know that thanks to Pickaway-Ross main campus and satellite teachers, more than three dozen soldiers will be getting care packages in time for Christmas.



In fact, through a partnership with the Friends of the 1194th FRG (Family Readiness Group), 40 soldiers serving in Ohio's Army National Guard Unit 1194 have been "adopted" by our programs and will receive a care package every month for a year.



Katt Marriott

Katt Marriott spearheaded the process, going to each lab instructor with a request to take part. It must be hard to say no to Katt, because she got 100 percent participation plus an academic teacher and four satellite teachers.

"It's a very worthwhile cause," Katt said of the Adopt A Soldier program.

Sheryl McCorkle, whose son is in the unit, is part of the Friends of the FRG and first contacted Chillicothe City School Superintendent Jon Saxton. She then met with the superintendents of other schools in Ross and Pike counties. Sheryl is a former school board member for Pickaway-Ross and Chillicothe.

"The response was fantastic," Sheryl said of the involvement by schools in Pickaway, Pike and Ross counties, two churches and individuals.

A list of acceptable items that soldiers can receive was provided and at Pickaway-Ross, students are writing letters of introduction to their soldiers. It is hoped that the soldiers will write back through the course of the program.



Laura-May Wheeler and Mitchell Chancey, seniors in Criminal Justice, pack boxes that will go to two soldiers with Ohio's Army National Guard Unit 1194.

Because the 1194th is made up of a men and women who are from Pickaway, Ross and neighboring counties, it is not surprising that some students know their soldier.

In one class, the students requested the brother of a classmate as their soldier and in another class, the soldier is a neighbor of one of the students.

"If kids are thinking of joining the military, this could be them in a few years," Katt said.

In addition to the community service aspect, the project also has educational components, Katt said. Students in some classes have researched the country where the soldiers are deployed to learn about the geography and understand what the soldiers are experiencing, and the letter-writing provides a language arts component.

A few boxes already have been mailed and others will go out in time to reach soldiers for Christmas.

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