

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 7, 2018

For several years, Pickaway-Ross has been working with the American Red Cross Central Ohio Region conducting blood drives.

Susan Schwalbauch, academic specialist, had been overseeing the drives for several years but with a new testing schedule, Susan said she knew she wouldn't have time to organize them.

"I thought if I could find some students, especially a strong student leader, I could still manage the drives. It was important to find others who were passionate about community service and the American Red Cross."

Susan found that student leader in Whitney Wilson, a senior in the Health Science program.

Whitney was one student recommended to Susan by the Health Science instructors.

"Out of several volunteers, Whitney quickly rose to the top and started being the student coordinator of the drives in September," Susan said.

Whitney said helping run the drives is a perfect fit for her personality, as it requires a lot of planning and organization, which Whitney loves.

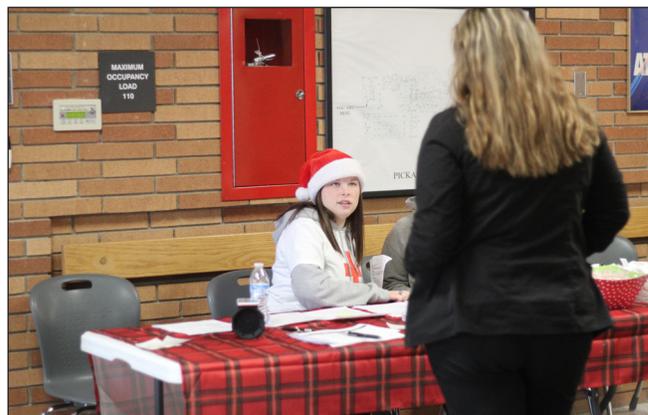
"I like that I can plan it and keep it organized. I'm really meticulous about stuff. I like to keep everything in order and running smoothly."

Whitney created a schedule of 16 student workers, decided when to schedule the sign-up ahead of each drive and planned a theme to get people involved.

Whitney's skills worked well last week during the school's second blood drive, which was completed early and every person who signed up to donate — as well as those on the wait list and the 16-year-old donors — were seen.

"Although we have other students donating their time during sign-ups or the drive, Whitney is in the trenches with me during the 56 days between drives working out schedules, recruiting, planning and trouble shooting," Susan said.

"She is the liaison between me and the other



Senior Whitney Wilson checks in a student who volunteered to donate blood at last week's drive.

volunteers and she is excellent at it!"

Whitney plans to go to either Shawnee State or Rio Grande and is deciding whether to study nursing or diagnostic medical sonography. She has contacted Adena about shadowing an ultrasound technician to learn more to help her decide.

Regardless, she thinks everything she does at Pickaway-Ross is a steppingstone to her career.

"This will give me a head start and help me get a job in health care. So (attending Pickaway-Ross) gets my foot in the door."

Whitney's mom is an E.R. nurse at Adena and she has many other family members in nursing. She said she has known since she was in middle school that she wanted to be in the medical field.

In addition to helping with the blood drive, Whitney is on the yearbook staff, in SkillsUSA and is a member of National Technical Honor Society and MADE.

Eighty-five people were seen by a Red Cross representative last Friday, which resulted in 62 units, surpassing the school's goal of 55. Those units will save 186 lives, Susan said.

The next blood drives will be Jan. 30 and April 5.

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