

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 8, 2017

This week we hosted more than 1,000 students during sophomore tours and welcomed many of them back last night for the annual open house.



When promoting Pickaway-Ross as an option for high school students, teachers emphasize that attending Pickaway-Ross provides many opportunities: going to college, entering the workforce or joining the military.

Some follow the path they envisioned in high school; others use what they learned at Pickaway-Ross as a steppingstone to another career.

Shelbie Cummings completed the Electrical program in 2016, knowing before she visited during sophomore tours that was the career for her.



“I think (I was) in middle school when I heard of Pickaway-Ross and I was interested in it.”

Shelbie started working at Mid-City Electric the summer after her junior year and is now in her third year of post-secondary education through IBEW, the electricians union.

She loves her job and credits Pickaway-Ross and instructor Kirk Hewitt with her success.

“Pickaway-Ross changed my life. It can do the same for others.”



Mark Gleason, who completed the Auto Body program under Bob Detty in 2004, spent several years in the collision repair field before deciding to open his own shop in Waverly in 2014.

Mark said that when he was younger, a family friend had a body shop where he hung out, working and cleaning.

While at Pickaway-Ross, Bob helped him get a job with Nourse Collision Center and he worked at various shops for about 10 years.

“But I was also doing work on the side and I got so busy that I was working two full-time jobs,” he said.

He employs eight in his shop, including his brother Matt who completed the Auto Body program in 2006.

Eric Landman’s route to where he is today was a little less direct than Shelbie and Mark’s.

Eric completed the Accounting program in 2002, expecting to pursue a career in business. He earned an associate’s degree from Ohio University-Chillicothe and got a job making plastic car parts for Honda.



While continuing his education at OUC — working toward a bachelor’s degree in Technical & Applied Science — he entertained the idea of a career in medicine.

He researched what he needed to do to get into medical school and pursued that route.

“When I told my parents I was going to apply to medical school, they didn’t take me seriously,” he said.

They should have.

Today, Eric is a resident physician with the Kettering network, having completed medical school at Ohio University.

These are just three of our alumni who are applying what they’ve learned at Pickaway-Ross to their career path.

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