

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 12, 2014

Each year, teachers and administrators must adapt to a variety of changes in education rules and requirements.



Starting with the 2015-16 school year, a big change in career-tech education is the shift from programs to courses. Tim Vollet is spearheading this effort in his first year as curriculum specialist.

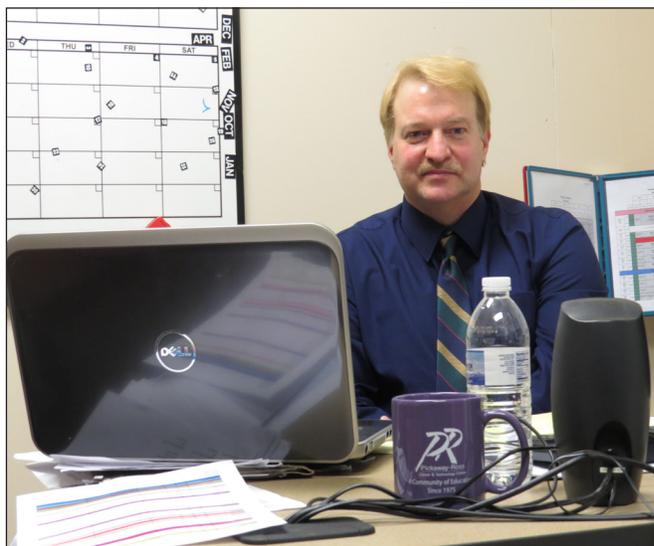
“So much change is going on in education, I feel I either came in at the best time or the worse time,” Tim said.

Tim said there are several reasons for the move from programs to courses.

“The most important, I think, is that it will help our students earn college credit while at Pickaway-Ross,” he said.

Tim said that career fields at Pickaway-Ross that will use the new format next year are automotive and construction programs, Criminal Justice, Engineering, Interactive Digital Arts, Machining, Welding, Medical Careers and Network System Technologies.

Using Criminal Justice as an



Tim Vollet taught social studies at Pickaway-Ross for 15 years before becoming curriculum specialist this year.

example, Tim said that under the current system, a student who completes Mr. Ryan’s program would earn three semester credit hours from his two-year Pickaway-Ross program toward a degree in criminal justice at Columbus State Community College.

By moving to courses, that student would earn up to 12 credit hours: three semester credit hours for each of four courses within the Criminal Justice program that are aligned with Columbus State’s program.

The other benefit, Tim says, is the new system will replace the end-of-program exams and allow students to be tested at the end of each course.

“Many of the current assessments are end-of-program exams given at the end of the

senior year. It just doesn’t make sense to test a student at the end of his senior year on information that was taught in his junior year.”

Tim is overseeing the WebXams and putting together the courses of study.

Having taught social studies at Pickaway-Ross for 15 years, Tim said he thinks his background will help him because he understands the life of a teacher.

“I know how a teacher sees the world,” he said. “I feel their pain in dealing with all the changes.”

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