

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

April 25, 2014

Earlier this year, in his State of the State speech, Gov. John Kasich spoke of a proposed initiative called Community Connectors that seeks to provide mentorship opportunities to students by connecting schools, parents, communities, faith-based groups and businesses.



Pickaway-Ross has been connecting with the communities we serve since we opened our doors nearly 40 years ago.



When not working in the community, Dave Dyer and Michelle Seeling's students help out around our campus.

Some of our partnerships are quite visible, such as our Circleville campus on Mound Street, which was made possible by our 2012 purchase of the former Mound Elementary building for our Health Technologies programs.

Others exist a little under the radar, such as our Allied Health program at Berger Hospital. Known informally as the Berger Health program, it is one of our most popular off-campus programs. Also off campus, our Sports Medicine program partners with the the Pickaway County Family YMCA, which lets students use the Circleville facility as its lab.

Some partnerships are conducted on a more personal level, such as a recent effort by our school nurse, Mindy Frejkowski, to help a student receive dental care. This student was in need of a root canal and because of dental pain, had been missing school with some frequency. Mindy worked with the student, his mother and the dentist's office – who donated the services – to coordinate the visit.

Two of Holly Wagoner's Media Design seniors, Sarah Ramey and Emilie Heilman, have been serving as interns for the Chillicothe Noon Rotary Club this year. Each Monday, they attend the meeting and take photos and notes of the meetings and then post them on the club's Facebook page.

And students in Dave Dyer and Michelle Seeling's programs routinely assist with maintenance and lawn care at Chillicothe City Hall, for the Ross County Parks District, at the Black Farm at Ohio University – Chillicothe, downtown Chillicothe parking lots and area churches.

In Adult Education, Pickaway-Ross has a grant offered through the Ohio Department of Public Safety to run the Motorcycle Ohio program. In 2013, more than 300 students attended the courses offered at Pickaway-Ross.

Whether going out into the community or bringing community members to us, I'm proud of the many community connections that Pickaway-Ross has.

