

# My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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For several years, Pickaway-Ross has been involved in High Schools That Work, a teacher-driven effort that uses proven educational strategies to improve students' academic and technical achievement.



And it's working.

Every two years, about five dozen students are randomly selected to take an assessment designed to evaluate their readiness for college and employment. Students who fulfill the requirements receive an Award of Educational Achievement from High Schools That Work.



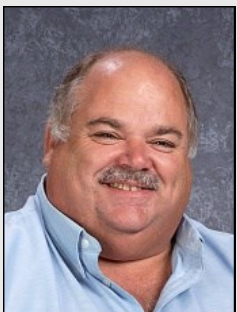
Cody Clifton



Austin L. Quincel

Pickaway-Ross' students took this assessment for the first time in 2012, setting our baseline for each biennial test thereafter.

In that first assessment, one student received the award. This past year, two students receive the award — Cody Clifton and Austin L. Quincel, both seniors in Network Support Technologies.



Kevin Krebs



Verdie Williams

High Schools That Work is the nation's largest school-reform model. Kevin Krebs, who with Verdie Williams is co-coordinator for our High Schools That Work team, said this allows Pickaway-Ross to learn from peers at the 1,200 other member schools.

"We can borrow, twist and adapt ideas for our needs," Kevin said. As an example, he cited Catch-up Café, an effort used at another school to allow students who were trailing in one or more academic courses to use their lunch period to catch up.

"It didn't really work here," Kevin said. So Catch-up Café became Lab Lockout, which has been having better results.

Later this month, we'll get a report that analyzes where we've improved between 2012 and 2014 and where we need to improve.

Regardless of the findings, I am pleased by the progress we've made in such a short time and greatly appreciate the time and effort that instructors put into High Schools That Work.

