

# My Turn

By Dennis Franks

Feb. 7, 2014



Going to high school is about more than academics. It's also about friendships made and experiences had in extracurricular activities.

At Pickaway-Ross, students are able to take part in career and technical student organizations: Business Professionals of America (BPA), DECA (an association of marketing students), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), FFA, Future Educators Association (FEA), Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) and SkillsUSA.

In Ohio, nearly 80,000 career-tech students are involved in a student organization.

Today, as part of Career & Technical Education Month, observed each February to recognize and celebrate career and technical education, Paint Valley senior Alyssa Rice, a BPA state officer, is among those student leaders chosen to represent her student organization during a proclamation by Gov. John Kasich at his office.



Alyssa Rice

At that time, the governor will designate today as Ohio Career-Technical Education Student Organization Day.

Student organizations offer opportunities for leadership and community service while allowing students to practice and enhance their workforce skills. Members of student organizations represent themselves, their chapters and their schools at regional, state and national conferences, learning from peers and bringing that knowledge back to their chapters.

They also bring back awards. For example, this fall, the Zane Trace FFA Food Science and Technology team of Beau Bilek, Mariah Cox, Kassandra Dalton and Amber Gintner placed third out of 20 teams in a state contest. And Westfall FFA chapter members Samantha Cooper, Breanna Post and Brad Wippel placed fifth among 20 teams for agricultural communications at a state career development event.



The team of, from left, Beau Bilek, Mariah Cox, Kassandra Dalton and Amber Ginter placed third in the Ohio FFA Food Science CDE held at Ohio State University this fall.



As we observe Career & Technical Education Month, I'm glad our state leaders are recognizing our student leaders today for Ohio Career-Technical Education Student Organization Day.

