

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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I met Kristie Miner more than 20 years ago when I was teaching data processing in Adult Education.

After high school and a short time in college, she got a job in retail and rose through the ranks to management.

But when her company closed after a 17-year career in retail, Kristie enrolled in Pickaway-Ross' data processing program.



Kristie Miner

As a dislocated worker, she was eligible for financial aid and said Pickaway-Ross was the best fit for her.

"I needed a quick (way) to get back into the workforce," she recalls of her decision to go to Pickaway-Ross. "I didn't have to go far and it had the best training for me to get a job quickly."

Today, Kristie is a mortgage loan officer with WesBanco in Chillicothe, having worked in the mortgage industry since completing the data processing program in 1994.

Before finishing the program, "I had four job offers in two days," she said. She didn't set out to pursue a career in banking, but knew that the next chapter in her professional life would involve numbers.

A few of the offers involved bookkeeping, but working behind the scenes was not for her.

"I'm a people person. I knew I was going to have to be involved with the public."

Kristie's success story is just one that starts in Adult Education. In fact, one of her two sons followed in her footsteps and completed Pickaway-Ross' Adult Education welding program. Drew is a certified welder working at Kenworth. Her other son, Nathan, earned a business degree from Ohio University and is a senior inventory deployment analyst at Limited Brands.

"I told both my sons, 'I don't care what you do, but be good at it. You need training in today's workforce,' " be it college or credential/licensure that can be earned at Pickaway-Ross, she said.

Today, she looks back on that decision in 1993 with pleasure.

"I really appreciate everything I got from Pickaway-Ross. I wouldn't be where I am today without it."

