

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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By July 1, we will have said so long to nearly a dozen long-time employees at Pickaway-Ross. For the past few years we've been saying goodbye to our co-workers and friends: Since 2010, 18 other employees have retired, either because they reached retirement age or because changes in the retirement system have compelled them to retire sooner than they might have.



For those of us still here – and with 23 years under my own belt, some may consider me “long time” too – these departures are a little bittersweet. We are a workplace, yes, but often we feel like family.

All of us have our own special staff recollections. I have no shortage of memories of the many colleagues who contributed while they were here to making Pickaway-Ross the high-quality institution it is.

But when someone leaves, we hire someone new. And while change can be a little scary, it can be exciting, too.

Too often companies become complacent: “That’s the way we’ve always done it” may be a common phrase in the workplace.

But I think that employees new to Pickaway-Ross help us move away from that mindset. We now have an opportunity to take a look at where we’ve been and see where we want to go.

New employees bring new faces, new blood and new ideas. People who haven’t worked here 23 years might see a flaw in the way “we’ve always done it,” and suggest another – perhaps better – idea.

I appreciate all those who have dedicated their careers to Pickaway-Ross – those we’ve said goodbye to and those who are still here. And I look forward to welcoming the newcomers who will become our next group of “long-time” employees.

