

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 25, 2020

When I became superintendent in 2010, I created a committee tasked with promoting Pickaway-Ross in the community.

LAMPS — the Leading, Advising, Marketing, Promotions & Steering committee — was a combination of two committees with similar goals.

For the first eight years, LAMPS was led by Kevin Krebs, who knew the importance of promoting the benefits of Pickaway-Ross, not just to community members but by staff members who work with our students every day.

"Dennis came to me, Robin Bussey and Tracey Eyre and some others who had served on those committees and asked us to re-boot it into something bigger," Kevin said.

"There has been a change in the world of academia. There's nothing like home ec or industrial arts in the home schools where kids learn those life skills. My mom taught me how to cook. In school I had woodshop and welding that taught me those life skills."

Kevin says it's incumbent on career centers to remind communities why those skills are needed.

"There are many college-educated people who can't find a job. The need right now is in the



LAMPS

All staff members are invited to join the LAMPS committee at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the commons to brainstorm ideas for community engagement.

skilled trades. That's where the jobs are. I can place every single one of my students in a restaurant (job) right now."

Kevin said he is pleased with what LAMPS has accomplished in the past decade with such events as Senior Citizens Day, the Community Expo, Pancakes with Santa and representation at the local county fairs.

"I think it has gotten the word out but I think you need to continue for the next generation.

"When you set out to accomplish something, there can be a sense that once you reach that goal you think you're done. It's not. It's ongoing."

To that end, I hope many of you will choose to attend next week's meeting, an opportunity to brainstorm how we can engage the community while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

This is a staff-driven committee because, as Kevin points out, our staff members are the best ambassadors Pickaway-Ross has to promote our students, programs and each other.

Erika Konowalow will lead the committee this year; if you are unable to attend but have ideas on community engagement, e-mail her.

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.

FAR LEFT: The activities table at the 2018 Ross County Fair was a hit with kids.

Left: In 2019, the Pancakes with Santa event was introduced.

