

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Oct. 30, 2020

When Kristy Landman decided that she would retire from Pickaway-Ross at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, she anticipated that the year would be one of traditional activities and some last-time-I-do-this moments.



But nobody knew what would happen midway through the year.

"I was supposed to retire at the end of the school year but my last day ended up being March 16," said Kristy, who was hired in 2015.

"I sort of felt a little bit like I didn't have closure: I didn't get to see the kids graduate, I didn't get to go to prom. That didn't give me the closure I expected for my last year."

I was happy to present Kristy with her retirement plaque at last week's board meeting. In her nearly five years at Pickaway-Ross, Kristy's contributions to the school and our students cannot be overstated.

As security guard, she was the first face our visitors and the Pickaway-Ross family saw upon entering campus. But more than that, she was an integral part of supporting school projects.

One such initiative that is close to her heart is our MADE drug-free club chapter.

The opioid epidemic has affected many in our community, including Kristy, who lost her son, Joe, to a drug overdose in 2017. In addition to being a volunteer for MADE, she started the



Kristy Landman received her retirement plaque at the October board meeting last week.

Joseph Landman Memorial MADE Scholarship. Joe completed Pickaway-Ross' Accounting & Computing Program in 2002.

In the past, she has organized auctions and raffles to fund the scholarship. But in light of the pandemic, she is working to have a virtual fundraiser this year.

So while she has retired, she hasn't slowed down. When wearing masks became an imperative, she started making masks and mask lanyards. She also volunteers at the Hope Clinic Mobile Market, a food bank in Chillicothe, and for Operation Christmas Child. She is also still an auxiliary deputy for the Ross County Sheriff's Department, providing event security.

Kristy is enjoying retirement but misses Pickaway-Ross.

"The thing I miss the most is mentoring the (Law & Public Safety) students who were assigned to be student employees and helping them develop an interest in a career in law enforcement. They called me their 'work mom.' And I really enjoyed the preschoolers and seeing them every day."

"I miss the job and the people, but after retiring from the A-plant with 35 years and then working at Pickaway-Ross, I just think it was time. I think I was ready," she said.



In 2018, Kristy bought more than 500 pinwheels that MADE members signed. They were then placed in the front of the school along Crouse Chapel Road.

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