

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 18, 2020

**A**s we mourn the passing of our colleague and friend Mark Moss, who died Dec. 5, I think it's safe to say that the memories we have of him will keep him alive in our hearts.



Mark started at Pickaway-Ross as a student in Adult Education, taking business classes after working at MeadWestvaco for 21 years. I first met him when I was director of Adult Education and I conducted a mock interview with Mark.

I was impressed with his professionalism and how he handled himself in the interview with me. That parlayed into him doing some part-time work for us in Adult Education. My instincts were right about hiring Mark, as his attention to details and dedication to Pickaway-Ross made him an asset to our organization for 16 years.

But I think it will be his quiet demeanor and sense of humor that will stay with us.

At an Adult Education Christmas party shortly after he was hired, Mark wrote and performed a parody song about the staff. He sat in front of 50 educators, making light of all the people in Adult Ed, including yours truly.

Carrie Fife, then a teacher in Adult Education, remembers the party. That performance, Carrie said, is one of her favorite memories of Mark.

Holly Smith was working in the technology department when Mark started working for Adult Education.

"He knew my uncle from the Mead plant, so we immediately had something in common and became quick friends," she said. "We had a mutual love for the TV series *The Office* and many times said that we could be in an episode at work. He almost always wore a suit and tie and I jokingly told him he was 'Pickaway-Ross 24/7.' I am pretty sure the PR hat that I wrote '24/7' on is somewhere in his office."

And just as he enjoyed being funny, he could take a joke, too.

Susan Buchanan said she drew horns on Mark's school picture but insisted Tim Vollet did.

"It lasted for weeks and neither knew who really did it." Susan said.

Kim Graves' connection to Mark goes back to attending Unioto Elementary School together.



Mark received his 15-year service award in 2019 with, from left, Debbie Wipert, Elizabeth Kolb and Missy Brown.

"When I returned to the main campus in 2013 as the job coordinator, I reconnected with Mark as he was in charge of EMIS and keeping all records for our students on job placement," Kim said. "We spent a lot of time together working on job fairs, job placement and talking about family and vacations."

"I will miss working with him and stopping back to chat and see how his day was going. I will miss his laughter, his jolly personality but most of all, I will miss his friendship!"

In addition to his humor, friends remember a kindness and unflappability about him.

"I can't remember a single time when Mark said anything negative about anyone," Carrie said. "He was always a calming presence."

Scott Brohard had a similar recollection.

"I never saw him frustrated or flustered. He always looked for and saw the good and positive in people and encouraged others to see the positive in people and situations."

Laura VanCuren worked with Mark in the Superintendent's Office since 2009 and said they became fast friends.

"I will miss his sense of humor, the way he endured Susan's teasing, his smile, the way that when I talked to him about something that was bothering me he always made me feel better and make it feel like not such a big deal. He was like a brother to me," Laura said.

It's good to have these memories of Mark. He brought a lot to Pickaway-Ross and will be missed.