

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Feb. 8, 2019

Often, our staff members find great ways to create partnerships with employers and companies in Pickaway and Ross counties.



And sometimes, great partnerships come to us.

This was the case last week when representatives of the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio (BX), OSHA and OSU's Environmental Health & Safety donated \$500 worth of hard hats, hearing and vision protection to students in our Carpentry and Electrical programs.

Shane Van Bibber, BX director of Safety Education, said the donation, made to Pickaway-Ross and also offered to four other

career centers in Ohio, was a way to honor Richard Burns, a 30-year veteran with Columbus OSHA.

Richard died in late 2017 and Shane and others involved with OSHA Safety Day, wanted to do something to honor him.

"We want to raise (student) awareness of safety and construction," said Shane. "The whole point of Safety Day was to focus on safety for OSU students.

"Going into the high schools and doing this outreach is something Rick would have been proud of. He always wanted people to be safe on the job."

Shane, with the help of Melissa Linton with OSHA and Catherine Black, Environmental Safety Officer with OSU, gave hard hats to each Carpentry and

Electrical Technologies student.

Before doing so, he spoke with students about the importance of following OSHA rules and quizzed them on their knowledge.

For example, he asked students if they knew that their hard hats had an expiration date — 5 years from the in-service date for most manufacturers — and then encouraged the students to mark the inside of the hat with the first date they wear the hat to be OSHA compliant.

Shane said that the donation will be given annually and next year, the hats will have Pickaway-Ross' logo on them.

Shane said this outreach is a way to honor Rick and continue spreading his message to "make safety second nature."

"If there's anything we can do to get into the schools and get that message across, we will. And it starts with this gift," Shane said.

The presentation of the materials is tied to the annual OSHA Safety Day, held Feb. 21 this year, and made possible by Ohio State University, the Columbus OSHA office and the Central Ohio American Society of Safety Professionals.

Shane Van Bibber with the Builders Exchange speaks to students about safety before passing out hard hats. The outreach was created to honor Richard Burns (lower right), a longtime OSHA safety compliance officer.



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