

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

An era at the ESC came to an end yesterday at Treasurer Shannon Clark's retirement party.



Shannon became treasurer in December 1980 but started working at the ESC 43 years ago when she was hired as a secretary.

In the 37 years that she has been our financial steward, she has seen a number of changes and she has always handled them with grace.

In fact, "gracious" is how Kim Martin, executive director of Pickaway County Family & Children First, describes Shannon.

"I have made mistakes and she takes the blame. She never makes me feel bad," Kim said of working with Shannon for 2½ years.

While Shannon has exhibited leadership, accountability and good stewardship of the fiscal operations of the Pickaway County ESC, it's her personal skills that are praised highly.

Ben Vanhorn, former treasurer at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center for 23 years, said Shannon was instrumental in helping him and other new treasurers at Pickaway County schools learn the ropes.

"She felt professional development and networking was important," said Ben, who joined Great Oaks Career Campuses this year as treasurer and CFO. "We had a lot of new treasurers when I started and she took it upon herself to help us along," hosting monthly meetings for Pickaway County school treasurers.

Helping people came naturally to Shannon, Ben and Kim said.

"My weak suit was doing payroll," Ben said, "Pay-

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Dick Everman, ESC's Governing Board president, presents Shannon Clark with retirement gifts.

roll has an art to it. Whenever I had an issue, she helped me fix it."

"She's a great team player," Kim said. "Whenever I walk into her office, she stops what she's doing, smiles and is happy to see me and help me."

Shannon's willingness to go above and beyond has greatly enabled the ESC's ability to offer services that benefit the county's schools and agencies that support children and families.

In the time that Shannon has been treasurer, the services that the ESC offers to Pickaway County schools has grown and with it, the number of employees who are based outside of the ESC.

Dick Everman, a member of the ESC's Governing Board, said that the growth of services has added to Shannon's job but she never balked.

"The board hates to see her go. She is just a jewel."

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