

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

Shannon Clark does not like being the center of attention.

But that wasn't going to stop me from nominating her for the Ohio ESC Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

When Shannon retired as the Pickaway County ESC treasurer last year, she had served in the position for 37 years and worked for 43 at the ESC.

But it wasn't just her career longevity that prompted her award nomination.

Throughout her tenure as treasurer, she exhibited leadership, accountability and good stewardship of the fiscal operations at Pickaway County ESC.

In fact, nine months after she retired in October 2017, her fiscal acumen was lauded when the ESC was presented with the Auditor of State Award.

While a stereotype may exist that financial professionals are all about numbers, Shannon's personal skills were praised alongside her business knowledge.

Pickaway County's Family and Children First Council executive director describes Shannon as gracious.

Another treasurer who worked closely with Shannon said, "Shannon felt professional development and networking were important. She took it upon herself to initiate monthly meetings for the county's school treasurers. Whenever I had an issue, she helped me fix it."

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

In the time that Shannon was treasurer, the services that the ESC offers to Pickaway County schools and agencies grew, and with it the number of employees who serve our students and citizens.

Without Shannon's abilities and enthusiasm to



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Shannon Clark, second from left in front, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio ESC Association this week during OSBA's Capital Conference. Shown with Shannon are, front row, from left, Patricia Southward and Richard Everman; back row, from left, me, Kristin O'Dell, Lydia Rittinger and Robert Bower.

advance the impact of the Pickaway County ESC, this could not have been accomplished.

While she is enjoying spending time traveling and being with her family, she continues to demonstrate a level of service with which those of us who have known her are so familiar. Her retirement includes serving on the board of A New Leaf, an agency that assists foster children and families in the central and southern Ohio regions.

It was a pleasure for me, board members Robert Bower, Richard Everman and Patricia Southward, treasurer Kristin O'Dell and ESC administrative assistant Lydia Rittinger, to be with Shannon when she was awarded OESCA's highest honor during this week's OSBA Capital Conference in Columbus.

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