

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

For 10 years now, Pickaway HELPS has been encouraging high school students to pursue educational opportunities after high school.



Christy Mills, executive director of Pickaway HELPS, said she's proud of what students in Pickaway County have accomplished thanks to the collaborative nature of Pickaway HELPS, which works with all four county schools and the Pickaway County Board of Commissioners. The ESC is also a partner, providing an office for Christy.

Among the services that the program offers are assistance with the process of preparing to go to college with ACT Prep Workshops and FAFSA Day, a free financial aid workshop; career planning for students in sixth through 12th grades; and Pickaway County College Night, which brings together representatives from more than 100 institutions – technical schools, trade schools, 2- and 4-year colleges and the military.

The ACT Prep Workshops are offered in the fall and spring, with the next one scheduled for Saturday, March 11. The workshop, taught by Lucinda Eubanks, an adjunct faculty member at Ohio University-Chillicothe, presents practice questions, tips for test

day, reading techniques, and time and stress management pointers as students prepare to take college entrance exams.

Christy estimates that more than 400 Pickaway County high school juniors have participated in the ACT Prep Workshops since she started providing them in 2008.

"Doing their best on the test can benefit a student in several ways," Christy said. "Test scores are not only used for college admissions, but also for individual program admissions, college class placement and awarding of financial aid, so being prepared will help them on several fronts."

With a decade of service under her belt, Christy said she has some new goals for the years ahead.

"Pickaway HELPS recently sponsored a series of Workforce Connections meetings, in partnership with P3 and the Chamber of Commerce, to bring together local educators, employers, workforce professionals and community members to discuss our common strengths and challenges," Christy said.

"Out of this we are working on developing some action steps and initiatives, including an internship/job shadow program for high school students, and we are excited about future pos-



March 3, 2017

IF YOU GO

What: ACT Prep Workshop
When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, March 11
Where: Pickaway County ESC,
2050 Stoneridge Drive
Cost: \$50 for the workshop;
\$15 for the workbook
Payment is due on the day of
the workshop. Make checks
payable to Pickaway HELPS.
To reserve seating call Christy
Mills at (740) 474-5383 or
send an e-mail to highered@pickaway.org.

sibilities for students as we partner with the local workforce."

For more information about Pickaway HELPS, go to www.pickawayhelps.org.

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