

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

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Nancy Moshtaghi started out in education as an elementary school teacher, but spent her career in the field of adult literacy.

After four years of teaching second and third grade, Nancy left Westfall Elementary School to be a stay-at-home mother.

In 1986, she started volunteering with the Literacy Council and then joined the ESC in 1988 as the Pickaway County ABLE/GED director and as the day-reporting GED instructor.

"I was always interested in adult literacy," Nancy said. "As soon as I heard about the ABLE job, I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Nancy worked for the ESC for more than 25 years, helping hundreds of adults change their lives.

"Being able to work with adults and give them chances they thought weren't available to them is very rewarding," she said.

A long-time colleague of Nancy's said working with her was a joy.

"Oh, I love Nancy," said Brenda McMahon, who now works for the ABLE program operated by Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center's Adult Education. "It was such a nice experience and it was all because of Nancy's leadership. She created a work and classroom environment that was compassionate and kind."

For Nancy, her work was her passion. To illustrate her commitment to the students, it's important to describe a commencement ceremony, with Nancy as the presenter.

While it's expected that audience members, and maybe graduates, would be moved during the ceremony, it was not uncommon for Nancy herself to have to pause as she got emotional when students' names were called.

"I knew what each student had to go through to get there," she said. "I would get all worked up."

Nancy's dedication is evident by the ties she formed with her students, many of whom stay in touch with her after they complete the program.

"A lot are working and some have gone on to college," Nancy said. "That accomplishment trickles down to other family members."

Nancy's retirement will leave a void at the ESC but her work with students will make a difference in Pickaway County and beyond.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.



Nancy Moshtaghi

