

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

Nov. 21, 2014

In 35 years of teaching, Rick Metzger has had a positive effect on thousands of students, not just in the subject he taught but in helping them to become better people.

So it was no surprise when the Ohio Educational Service Center Association selected Rick as one of six educators in the state to receive the association's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Rick Metzger

Rick is a Pickaway County native and taught agriculture education for 34 years at his alma mater, Westfall High School. The program became a satellite program of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center in 1992.

In addition to teaching, Rick served as the FFA advisor, with his chapter earning a Superior rating from 1980 through 2014.

As a teacher, Rick said one of his proudest accomplishments was obtaining science credit for Westfall's agriculture classes.

"We basically had to learn how to make sure it was on transcripts so colleges would accept it as a science class," Rick said.

He's also proud of being awarded a \$25,000 grant through Monsanto's American Farmers Grow Rural Education program. The money was used for the purchase of technology equipment, the installation of lab cabinets and a hydroponics system.

Calling himself an early adopter, Rick has enjoyed the advance of technology in his nearly four decades in education.

"When I started out, it was chalk and blackboards," he said.

"I tried to stay on top of (technology) my whole career. When Blackboard (education software) came out, I jumped on that. It revolutionized how you educate kids and prepared students for the delivery system that colleges use."

Rick retired in 2014, but he continues to educate kids by substituting at schools in Pickaway and Ross counties. Getting to work at so many schools, he's pleased with the quality of today's youth.

"We have good kids," he said.

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

