

## Perkins Restaurant on Elm Road Presents Pies to TCTC Government Teachers



[The Buck Stops With Them](#)

The sign on President Truman's desk read, "The Buck Stops Here." He conveyed the message, that he took responsibility for the affairs of Government. The desks of Donna Marscio, Joe Bettura and Tom Gorse do not contain a similar catchphrase, but they also take responsibility for the performance of their students. They are the instructors for a class called Core Government.

Incoming students at the TCTC who have not passed the Citizenship section of the Ohio Graduation Test are placed in Core Government. In addition to covering the standards established for Government, the teachers also review the material that students must learn to pass the OGT test. Their success rate over the past three years is more than 90%. This has removed a major hurdle to the graduation status of their students.

The teachers make no claim to possessing a secret formula that insures their students will receive a passing score. They put their faith in a more time tested approach. They work hard and they make sure that their students work equally hard. Marscio, Bettura and Gorse analyze the test questions used in past years to determine if a pattern exists. Since the OGT consists of

multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions, they create similar types of assessments for their students.

Since familiarity breeds success, the instructors have the students analyze the writing of their peers. Joe Bettura stated, "We want them to have a complete understanding of how the essay portions of the test are scored. This also sparks class discussion about the grading process."

Test taking skills are an important focus for the teachers. Tom Gorse said, "We show the students how to dissect the questions. Many times, you can eliminate two of the four multiple choices by reading carefully. We also stress the vocabulary used on the test so that students are not caught by surprise.

In order to build the students' self confidence, the material is covered in small increments. Donna Marscio believes it is important that students do not feel overwhelmed by the process. She stated, "We send each kid a letter in the beginning of the course. We tell them this is serious business, but if they complete what is expected of them, they will pass."

Larry Crawford, Academic Supervisor at the TCTC lauded the teachers for their professionalism. "The same expectations for excellent attendance that schools hold for students should also be in place for staff. Donna, Joe and Tom are almost never absent. They are very good role models. They possess "can do" attitudes and it rubs off on their students.

The Perkins Restaurant on Elm Road was impressed by the dedication displayed by the teachers. They presented each of them with the fresh baked pie of their choice.