



Gary Rogers with wife Becky and granddaughter Prudence.

Elder High School teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Roush

ATHENS, Ohio — Gary Rogers, a computer science and English teacher at Elder High School, was one of the nine teachers selected for the third annual Communication Fellows program in Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication. Focusing on curriculum development in communication across PK-12 levels of instruction, the program provides funding and mentorship support. Participants develop and implement a communication-related classroom project over the one-year course of their fellowship.

"It is a vital goal of our college to foster communication education among the state's youth and support teachers in innovative and dynamic projects relating to communication. My hope for the Communication Fellows program is to increase our impact on the state by bolstering the communication expertise of PK-12 teachers and enriching the education of their students," said Scripps College of Communication Dean Scott Titsworth.

Rogers graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Science degree in graphic design. Before joining Elder High School, he was a graphic design project manager for over 27 years.

"As an educator, I am most interested in preparing my students for life after school whether it involves a career in communications or not," Rogers said. "Because of my experience in the business world for most of my adult career, I believe that the ability to organize, write and communicate clearly is invaluable in positions across the business world."

Communication Fellows attend a half-week summer residential experience at Ohio University's main campus in Athens and receive free tuition for a graduate-level online course, a \$1500 stipend and \$1000 classroom stipend. Fellows also work with college faculty mentors and college leadership to achieve their project proposals. *The COVID-19 crisis may necessitate adjustments to the residential experience for the 2020 cohort.*

The project Rogers designed gives his students the opportunity to research, write, edit and produce a documentary about the 100 years the high school has been in existence. The

documentary will also give the history of the neighborhood where the school has remained for nearly a century, Price Hill.

“Besides the immediate experience in researching and producing a project of this scope, especially for my media/communication students, I think that producing a permanent record of the school and its relationship with its neighborhood (that has lasted 100 years) will produce a positive effect in the community. The students themselves will learn more about the development of urban neighborhoods in cities and the changes and stratifications that have occurred over a long period,” Rogers wrote in his project proposal.

Each year, up to 10 fellows are named, with five from rural Appalachian districts and five from urban districts in the state of Ohio. This program was established as part of the Scripps College of Communication’s 50th anniversary in 2018.

For more information about the Communication Fellows Program, [visit the program’s webpage](#). The Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University consists of five schools, each offering a variety of majors and programs for students who want to pursue communication-related careers. For more information, [visit our website](#).

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