



Ryan Novak

Kenston High School teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Roush

ATHENS, Ohio — Ryan Novak, an English teacher at Kenston 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.

Novak graduated from Ohio University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in adolescent to young adult education and earned a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Cleveland State University in 2013. He was an English teacher at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School for two years before he began teaching at Kenston High School in 2010.

"As a graduate of Ohio University, I regularly integrate what I learned as a student in communication, English, and journalism classes at OU into my teaching. When I became aware of the opportunity to network with current faculty and continue my professional development, I jumped at the opportunity," Novak said. "In order to truly prepare my students, I think it is important that I continue to stay up to date with the ever-changing media landscape and to interact with as many experts and professionals as I can."

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.*

“My project is a step toward building a media program that allows students to create just about any media product they can imagine. I hope to use the classroom stipend to upgrade the equipment my students use to produce video content” Novak wrote in his proposal. “I am especially interested in the opportunity to participate in the residential experience, the opportunity to take a graduate-level course, and to work closely with a member of the Scripps faculty.”

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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