



Tanner Salyers

Newark Digital Academy teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Roush

ATHENS, Ohio — Tanner Salyers, a 9-12th grade world history, US Government, and economics teacher with Newark Digital Academy, 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.

Salyers graduated from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education and earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State University in 2019. He is a Mount Vernon City Councilman, the assistant director for Knox County Youth Works and the co-founder and director of Knox Summer Manufacturing Camp for middle school students interested in the STEM and manufacturing industry.

"This sounded like the perfect opportunity to develop a program around personal and professional mentorship for students that I feel is critical for the successful development for our young people," said Salyers. "I've worked with at-risk youth as a high school teacher, managed summer work programs, and developed a manufacturing/STEM camp for middle schoolers, and through these experiences I've identified this significant need, which is why I proposed the 'Next Door Mentor' project."

The podcast project Salyers proposed will give students the opportunity to produce short interviews with local nonprofit leaders, government officials, business owners and people from the community who have experienced success.

“The interviews will focus on the journey of the individuals and their path to success and, most importantly, advice that they would offer to students on how to succeed. Students would then develop associated websites and social media accounts to host and publicize the episodes,” Salyers wrote in his proposal.

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.*

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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