



Tiffany Scanlan

East Guernsey Local Schools teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Roush

ATHENS, Ohio — Tiffany Scanlan, an art instructor at East Guernsey Local Schools, 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.

Scanlan graduated from Zane State with an Associates of Science degree in multimedia. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in art education from Ohio University and earned her Master of Science degree in instructional design and technology from Full Sail University. She was previously a substitute teacher in Muskingum County Schools and an art instructor for Tri-Valley Local Schools before spending the last six years as the art instructor at East Guernsey Local Schools.

"The goal of my project is to empower our students to achieve their goal," Scanlan said. "We are working on soft skills with junior students once a month. By incorporating the topics into an existing class, we would be reinforcing and expanding the scope of that project by reaching a wider range of students on a more consistent basis. One class period a week would be set aside to work on the topics, moving forward once the students are comfortable and proficient with the topic, with practice events scheduled once a quarter."

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.*

Scanlan's proposal includes eight objectives for her students to expand their soft skills, such as interviewing etiquette and technique, how to give constructive criticism and look at projects from multiple views, personal empowerment/confidence including practices for students to see the best in themselves, and how to market themselves to potential employers. Two others include empathy, teaching students how to connect with people and situations that are different than their experiences, and public service, showing the value of participation.

"The students who participate in the class will gain valuable skills that can be used for the remainder of their lives. This should also give them confidence to go after their goals while presenting themselves in a professional manner creating a domino effect of positive change," Scanlan wrote in her project proposal. "I am super excited to watch the students gain and strengthen their confidence levels and then apply that to what they want to achieve."

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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