



Tim Ruoff

Norwood High School teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Roush

ATHENS, Ohio — Tim Ruoff, an English teacher at Norwood 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.

Ruoff earned a Bachelor's degree in English literature, a Bachelor's degree in education, and a Master's degree in secondary education from the University of Cincinnati. He has taught high school English for 17 years, College Composition at Cincinnati State College for ten years, and has been an instructor at Cincinnati State's Writing Center for 17 years. For the past five years, Ruoff has been teaching AP literature at Norwood High School, and he said he is looking forward to teaching College Credit Plus for the first time in Norwood's history.

"Since I teach mostly juniors and seniors at Norwood High School as well as English Composition, mainly research writing, at Cincinnati State, I know the importance of teaching students media literacy and the ability to complete valid research, as well as integrate it effectively into their writing," said Ruoff. "The Communications Fellows program gave me an opportunity to put a school-wide media literacy unit together, and I'm looking forward to connecting with faculty at Ohio University and using their guidance to help implement that unit next school year."

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 goal of Ruoff's project is to provide students with the tools to think critically about the media they encounter, use, and communicate with each day and to give them autonomy to conduct research and report their findings in writing and with online presentation software.

"All American citizens, not just students, need to think critically about the media that they encounter, use, and communicate with on a daily basis. Providing students with a toolkit in which to think critically about media is essential now in 2020. By giving students autonomy to guide their own research while also teaching them how to conduct research effectively, how to synthesize varied sources of information, how to integrate research into their writing, and how to cite that research correctly – these are all skills that will prepare students for their work they will encounter in college," Ruoff 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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