



Jeff Brooker

Waterford High School Industrial Arts teacher Jeff Brooker named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Logue

ATHENS, Ohio (March 14, 2019)— Waterford High School industrial arts teacher Jeff Brooker was one of 10 teachers selected for the second 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.

“If the Communication Fellows program has taught us anything, it’s that there is so much creativity and innovation happening at the K-12 level,” said Dean Scott Titsworth. “We’re committed to using the college’s expertise and technology to support those teachers who are improving communication education.”

Brooker graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Technology Education. He earned a master’s degree in Education and Computer Technology from Ohio University. He has taught Technology Education and Industrial Arts since 1998.

In 2018, Brooker submitted a proposal to turn his program into a maker space and was awarded a Martha Holden Jennings grant. He used that funding to purchase several pieces of technological equipment. His project for the Communication Fellow program builds on that utilization of educational technology, creating a virtual reality (VR) classroom that would allow students to experience various career options through the use of VR devices.

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.

Brooker would use the classroom stipend toward a VR headset and console. The gaming and VR expertise available from the Scripps College of Communication’s Game Research and Immersive Design (GRID) Lab would allow him to explore the opportunities for using the technology in an educational setting.

“I think this project will have a very positive impact on my students,” Brooker wrote in his proposal. “They will be able to experience many different work scenarios, travel to different countries, and learn about different cultures in the world.”

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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