



**Lauren Scotta**

## **Gilles-Sweet Elementary School teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow**

By Sarah Logue

ATHENS, Ohio (March 14, 2019)— Lauren Scotta, a second- and third-grade gifted intervention specialist at Gilles-Sweet Elementary School, was one of nine 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."

Scotta graduated from Ohio University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication and earned a Master of Art degree in Education from Ursuline College in 2011. She has a gifted and talented endorsement from Wright State University, STEM certification from Regent University, and is currently enrolled in an administrative licensure program for curriculum and instruction at Muskingum University.

"As an Ohio University Scripps Communication graduate, I was interested in this opportunity as I received an excellent undergraduate education which I feel helped prepare me for where I am today," Scotta said. "As social emotional learning and growth mindset are areas that I am interested in better understanding and incorporating in my classroom, I felt that this was an impactful opportunity that would lead to great discussions, guidance, and support in integrating social-emotional methods further into my classroom."

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.

Utilizing an array of communication technology such as audio podcasting, digital video and Virtual Reality, Scotta's project focuses on helping students identify, communicate and understand their feelings.

"Students will design, create, and engineer their own product that will showcase what they have learned, how they have grown, and communicate to others effective ways in helping them socially and emotionally," Scotta wrote in her 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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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