

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 4, 2016

In April, Josh Younge stood before his fellow English teachers in Ohio and was recognized as the Outstanding High School English Language Arts educator by the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts.



On Nov. 19, Josh will stand before thousands of his peers at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in Atlanta and be recognized as one of 14 national recipients of the 2016 High School Teacher of Excellence Award.

Josh knows that these honors are a reflection of the hard work he's done over the years as a member of the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts.

Currently vice president of the organization, he will become president-elect in February.

As vice president, he's overseen distribution of communication vehicles and is planning the Ohio group's 2018 conference.

It was while planning the conference, which entails setting up presenters, that Josh realized a better system was needed.

"I reorganized the way we select presenters by creating a rubric to make the selection process uniform," Josh said.

"We had informal procedures in place that didn't transfer from year to year. That can put a lot of pressure on the organizer."

The rubric, which will benefit the conference organizer, also will help presenters, Josh said.

"We'll post the rubric online and presenters can



Josh Younge works with juniors in his Integrated English class. Josh is in his 14th year as a teacher at Pickaway-Ross.

create a successful proposal."

The rubric took a lot of time to create, working with other members of the group to determine what factors they wanted to evaluate in future presenters.

But Josh said improving the process dovetails with his philosophy of trying to make "each other's lives better."

"If we're not doing that, I don't know why we're here."

While Josh is confident that his hard work behind the scenes is a major factor in winning these awards, he does not take the recognition lightly.

"When I have a colleague or peer who is willing to nominate me, it means that I've distinguished myself with someone I have great respect for.

"That's quite an honor."

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