Alumni Spotlight

Each month, we highlight the stories and accomplishments of our Thompson Alumni. This month, we feature **Bella Olzak** from the **2022 Cohort**.

Bella Olzak

Cohort:
2022

Majors:
Choral Music Education

Current Role:
Choir Director at Karrer Middle School, Dublin City Schools

Where are you now and how did Thompson Scholarship Programs help you get there?

I would not be where I am without the Thompson Scholarship Program at BGSU. Being able to work in one of the top districts in Ohio wasn't just luck. It's because Thompson Scholarship Programs prepared me in so many ways both professionally and personally. Because of the life design planning tools and 1 on 1 coaching, I was able to have a clear vision of what my goals were and how to get there. I had the support I needed to work on my professional development and to make sure that I was on track in taking steps towards those goals. When things got difficult, because they always do, I had my Thompson advisor and community by my side every step of the way. Of course the financial assistance helped a lot, but being a Thompson Scholar is so much more than that.

What was your favorite part of the Thompson Scholar experience?

My favorite part about being a scholar was getting to be a TA for the Thompson 1910 course. It allowed me to give back to other scholars while also allowing me the space to develop some of my teaching skills and confidence earlier on in my degree.

What advice would you give to current scholars?

Lean into your Thompson community. If you only do the minimum requirements, you'll miss out on so many of the most beautiful and helpful parts about being a member of this community.