

Matt Akos

Designer, Illustrator, and Instructor

Education

Kent State University, School of Visual Communication Design (VCD)

MFA, VCD 2022 – 2025

BFA, VCD 2017 – 2022

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Instructor

Graphic Design I (Fall 2025, Kent State University)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Studio Projects

Graphic Design II (Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Kent State University)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Studio Projects

Graphic Narrative (Fall 2025, Kent State University)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Studio Projects, Assignment Development

Foundation 2D Design (Fall 2025 – Fall 2026, University of Akron)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Studio Projects

Magazine Design (Spring 2026, Kent State University)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Studio Projects, Curriculum Development

Graduate Student Instructor: Kent State University

Introduction to Design Research (Fall 2023)

Lectures, Workshops, Critiquing

Visual Design for Media (Spring 2024)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Workshops

Graphic Design I (Fall 2024)

Studio Lectures, Critique, Studio Projects

Design Research and Methods (Spring 2025)

Lectures, Workshops, Grading, Critiquing

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Kent State University

Introduction to Visual Design Thinking (Fall 2022)

Grading, Critiquing, Lectures on Semiotics + Poster Design

Visual Ethics (Spring 2023)

Grading, Critiquing, Lectures on Visual Literacy, Semiotics

Upward Bound

High School workshops on branding and visual literacy (2023)

LaunchNet (Student Entrepreneur Program)

Branding Workshop, how branding affects your business (2022, 2024,2025)

Educational Advisory Committee, A-Tech

Providing input and advice to Ashtabula A-Tech on design trends for high school career technical education (2024 – ongoing)

Kent State Student Media

Providing input and creative guidance to student designers on magazines, booklets, and advertisements (2023)

First-Star

Small workshops on professional development and self-branding for youth in foster programs (2025)

General Experience

Adjunct Instructor, 2025 –

Part-time instructor at multiple universities in graphic design/ visual communication departments. Preparing and giving lectures, providing critique and feedback on student work, grading designed and written assignments.

Graduate Assistant, Kent State University: 2022 – 2025

Instructor for courses in VCD. Preparing and giving lectures, providing critique and feedback on student work, grading designed and written assignments.

Co-Director, National Courtesy Corps, SkillsUSA: 2014 – Current

Co-director of the SkillsUSA Courtesy Corps National Staff, a group of high school and adult volunteers to assist in the annual production of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Creative Director, IdeaBase: 2022 – 2024

Responsible for providing guidance and feedback on numerous projects. Promote professional development of young designers along with coordinating client meetings to assess client needs and direction to best assign and facilitate staff designers to achieve best possible creative outcomes. Also responsible for evaluation of design-student internships through IdeaBase.

Designer + Illustrator, Davey Resource Group: 2020 – 2022

Responsibilities include creating layouts and templates on a per project basis within Davey's existing branding guidelines. Additionally responsible for any project illustration requests and additional custom layout per Davey and/or client branding guide including but not limited to: signage, collateral mockups, branding, city urban forest master plans, and presentations.

Conferences + Events

SkillsUSA NLSC: 2014 – 2024 (Annual)

Competition Judge, SkillsUSA Regional Ohio Advertising Design (2023)

Competition Judge, SkillsUSA NLSC Welding Sculpture Judge (2024)

Skills

Teaching, Adobe Illustrator; Photoshop; InDesign; XD; After Effects. Illustration, Layout Design, Information Design, Critical Thinking, Creative Direction, Collaboration, Critique, Feedback, Evaluation, Project Management, Communication, Piano

Publication

Significant Significance: Comics As A Tool In Design Education (MFA Thesis)

Using graphic novels and comics theory to demonstrate the translation of design principles and practices in related visual fields to enhance design education outcomes.

Peirce and Welby (Monthly Comic)

Online comic published monthly on Foofaraw Press, original artwork and narratives.

Exhibitions

Graduate Student Show: “In Process”

Co-Produced graduate student gallery open to public, hosted gallery reception with area professionals and alumni. (Gallery named “In Process”)

IdeaBase Ten Year Celebration

Designed, produced, and installed exhibition celebrating IdeaBase’s ten year anniversary.

College of Communication and Information Student Show

Designed, produced, installed exhibition focused on displaying student work from across the College of Communication and Information.

College of Communication and Information Study Abroad Gallery

Designed, produced, and installed gallery to show the different options available to students for the study abroad program. Included destinations, stories, projects, and accessibility of study abroad.