

*Jeff Scruggs* – ALUMNI



Jeff Scruggs is a life-long resident of Houston County and graduated from Northside High School in 1982. While at Northside, Jeff was a class officer each year including serving as president of the senior class of 1982.

After his high school graduation, Jeff attended Georgia College and earned his bachelor's degree in Information Systems and began his career working in a small family business. Jeff married the former Kelly Sartain of Warner Robins in 1991 and returned to college to earn a master's degree. Following years of working in private business, he pursued his passion: education.

Jeff began his career in education as a computer programming instructor. He is currently in his 28th year of service at Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC). During his years at CGTC, Jeff served, not only as an instructor, but also in various leadership roles, such as, Executive Director for Information Technology, Vice President of Institutional

Effectiveness, Technology and Research, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Economic Development, Acting President, and he now serves as Executive Vice President.

During his tenure, Jeff was instrumental in shepherding the College's accreditation efforts as well as establishing the College's Global Initiatives program. He has led efforts to establish collaborative relationships with colleges and universities in England, Scotland, Colombia, China, Ireland, and Afghanistan. In one of his proudest projects, Jeff led CGTC's collaboration with US AID, the University of Massachusetts, and Kabul Polytechnic University to establish the first Associate Degree program in Afghanistan. During this project, he led a faculty delegation to Azerbaijan and Kabul, Afghanistan. The first graduating cohort of 36 Afghan students from this new program included eight females at a time when opportunities were slim.

Among his prouder work at CGTC, Jeff was instrumental in establishing the Georgia Veterans Education and Career Transition Resource (VECTR) Center. Since its opening in 2016, the Georgia VECTR Center has provided over 112,000 services to more than 30,000 military veterans, active duty, and military family members coming mainly from Georgia. Additionally, as a firm believer in the power of education to change lives, Jeff has been responsible for leading the College's Georgia Inmate Training and Education programs, and for over two decades, CGTC has led the state in preparing inmates to re-enter society and the workforce.

Jeff and Kelly have two adult children, Sydney and Jonathan, as well as a son-in-law, Drew. As a cancer survivor, Jeff is committed to living a fun and meaningful life and enjoying family, friends, and God's creation.

*What does Northside High School mean to you?*

My greatest memories were the friendships and family atmosphere among the students, faculty, and staff. We were not just a student body, but we embraced one another, supported one another, and cheered for one another. The school not only gave us a great education, but also the faculty prepared us for higher education, impactful careers, and life as citizens, spouses, and parents. We learned to appreciate diversity and to pour ourselves into the lives of others and the community. As a kid from a humble background, the mentoring by my teachers made all the difference to me. We had many great teachers and leaders, but those that stand out in my memory today are Bill Faircloth, Jane Adams, Donna Havrilla, Gloria Combs, Ginny Smith, Shirley Lowery, Matt Arthur, Ed Dyson, and the list can go on! I'll never lose sight of the impact that being a Northside Eagle has had on my life. "Ever Onward!"