

BRIAN T. WATSON

IT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

PERSONAL PROFILE

I am a seasoned professional who has enthusiastically delivered quality information technology services and support to the higher education community for 30 years. As a leader, I have significant experience prescribing and executing appropriate, measured tactical responses in critical and/or time-sensitive situations. I have a proven track record of bringing a balanced mix of creative vision, technical literacy, and business acumen to bear in the development of comprehensive, long-term IT strategies. With many years of service still ahead of me, I seek the opportunity to apply my accumulated knowledge and experience to new challenges and to, hopefully, continue to facilitate success among those that I serve.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Interim Chief Information Officer

Georgia College & State University | 2024

- Provide overall operational leadership and direction for the college's information technology support programs.
- Serve as an active, contributing member of the University Senate, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee, and Security Systems Governance Committee.
- Represent the university's interests as a member of the University System of Georgia's CIO Advisory Committee.

Interim Chief Information Officer

Gordon State College | 2021 - 2022

- Recruit and onboard the institution's next permanent CIO.
- Provide overall operational leadership and direction for the college's information technology support programs.
- Develop and initiate a plan to address deficiencies in Information technology support services.
- Represent the university's interests as a member of the University System of Georgia's CIO Advisory Committee.

IT Executive Director

University of Georgia | 2014 - Present

- Provide operational leadership and strategic vision for College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences' IT services.
- Manage the portfolio of IT services consumed by 3200+ college employees at over 200 locations across Georgia in support of the instructional, public service and research missions.
- Steward the college's classroom infrastructure including modernization of presentation and conferencing technologies.
- Provide technical consultation to facility and infrastructure construction and improvement projects.
- Seek opportunities for business process improvement through digital transformation.
- Represent the college's interests within institutional, state, regional and national IT communities.

IT Associate Director

University of Georgia | 2005 - 2014

- Led the team responsible for the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences and UGA Extension websites.
- Directed application development program.
- Managed the college's central datacenter operations.

CREDENTIALS

- **Master of Business Administration**
Albany State University (1998)
- **ITIL v.3 Expert**
Axelos (2016)
- **Certified Change Management Professional**
Prosci (2016)

SKILLS SUMMARY

- ✓ IT Project and Portfolio Management
- ✓ Budgeting and IT Resource Management
- ✓ Strategic Planning and Organizational Alignment
- ✓ Staffing and Team Development
- ✓ IT Service Management
- ✓ Business Process Analysis and Improvement
- ✓ Vendor Relationship Management
- ✓ Marketing and Communications Management

HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

- 🏆 **Delta Mu Delta**
International Honor Society in Business Administration
- 🏆 **Epsilon Sigma Phi**
National Honor Society for Extension Professionals
- 🏆 **Alpha Alpha Alpha**
National Honor Society for First-Generation College Students

"Brian is a driving force for IT excellence within the college, ensuring his employees are trained and ready. His ability to estimate and articulate technology requirements, and then convince UGA and CAES administrators to adopt those that best serve our mission, is a true stong-point for our units."
William (Bill) Cheesborough
Director of Finance & Administration (Ret.)
UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

"CAES OIT does an AMAZING JOB! I have had wonderful support from them in upgrading facilities and classrooms, getting answers from the helpdesk, and responsiveness to urgent issues. They have lost several positions, and Brian Watson and his leaders still perform at a level better than I've seen at any other university."
Francis Fluharty
Professor and Department Head
UGA Animal and Dairy Science Department

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Deployed Microsoft Teams Voice for Gordon State College

In a two month window, selected and successfully deployed Microsoft Teams Voice as the new, mobile workforce-friendly telephone service provider for Gordon State College with no downtime or degradation of service.

Introduced Zoom to the University of Georgia

Recognized by the UGA VPIT for championing Zoom and assisting in procuring an institution-wide site license that would subsequently facilitate UGA's move to remote work and online instruction in the Spring of 2020.

Received the NETC 2020 Team of Excellence Award

For its collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and support of the college's move to remote work and online instruction, the Office of Information Technology was awarded the National Extension Technology Community's Team of Excellence Award.

Established new Support Programs

Developed new approaches for delivering end user support and classroom support to the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences resulting in broad adoption of services, greater standardization, more reliable infrastructure and support mechanisms and exceptional customer satisfaction.

Developed a new Software Licensing Model

Built an intra-university "software licensing consortium" enabling broad adoption of common software solutions while realizing greater economies of scale without the institution having to invest into university-wide site licenses up front.

Prescribed a new Professional Development Program

Placing an emphasis on employee growth and continuous professional development, established a training program wherein team members expand their technical expertise, grow their emotional intelligence, and develop techniques to improve customer care.

Inducted into the NETC Hall of Fame

In April of 2023, named among the inaugural class of inductees for the National Extension Technology Community Hall of Fame for contributions in support of the Cooperative Extension mission.

LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

It is imperative that one lead by example - demonstrating confidence, having an impeccable work ethic, and consistently and constantly exhibiting professionalism. A true leader views those for whom he is responsible as teammates, not subservient employees. Such a leader should seek opportunities to work alongside team members to build trust and facilitate open, honest, two-way communication. A leader must be firm and act as a disciplinarian when necessary but, otherwise, be empathetic and capable of extending grace. In the face of dire circumstances, a team's leader must be positive, confident, realistic, transparent, practical, and as prudent as possible. A leader is a team members' de facto mentor, cheerleader, and advocate. Finally, a leader must strive to treat each team member with respect, encourage ongoing professional growth, and publicly praise successes while giving private counsel when one falls short of the mark.

CAES Office of Information Technology

Customer Feedback (644 Surveys Returned) | July 2023 - June 2024



IT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VP for IT Executive Committee (VPIT Exec)

Member | University of Georgia

Administrative Systems Advisory Committee (ASAC)

Member | University of Georgia

ASAC Account Standards Subcommittee

Co-Chair | University of Georgia

Information Technology Management Forum (ITMF)

Former Chair | University of Georgia

ITMF Cloud Services Advisory Subcommittee

Member | University of Georgia

ITMF Zoom Settings & Best Practices Subcommittee

Co-Chair | University of Georgia

ITMF Information Technology BCATs Subcommittee

Member | University of Georgia

Adobe Usage Discovery Group

Member | University of Georgia

PLN Program Leadership Committee

Member | Southern Region Extension Program Leadership Network

PLN Information Technology Committee

Member | Southern Region Extension Program Leadership Network

Code42 EDU Customer Council

Member | Code42

Zoom Higher Education User Group

Member | Zoom

NETC Board

Former Member | National Extension Technology Community

USG CIO Advisory Council

Member | University System of GeorgiaUSG