

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Press Releases

Office of Communication

5-3-2021

The "Ouachitonian": Dr. Jeff Root

Lindsey Hyde

Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita News Bureau

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hyde, Lindsey and Ouachita News Bureau, "The "Ouachitonian": Dr. Jeff Root" (2021). *Press Releases*. 1226.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/1226

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Communication at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.



From

The "Ouachitonian": Dr. Jeff Root

By Lindsey Hyde

May 03, 2021

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Dr. Jeff Root never considered going anywhere else but Ouachita for his undergraduate education. Since both his parents worked at Ouachita, he spent much of his time growing up on campus. In 1991, Dr. Root came back to Ouachita as a member of the administrative staff and faculty, and in 2002 he became the dean of the School of Humanities.

When the dean of the Huckabee School of Education left in 2016, Dr. Root became the interim dean of education. He eventually became the permanent dean and the only “double-dean” at Ouachita. Dr. Root worked with the education school previously, since many students majoring in English and Spanish in Humanities also certify to teach.

“I had enjoyed being on the Arkadelphia School Board, so [the School of Education] seemed like a natural place for me to be,” Root said. “It felt like home, even though I had to learn a lot to catch up where the details were concerned. I knew about major issues in education, but had to learn all the catalog details. The opportunity came at a time in my career when a new challenge was welcome,” Root said.

Dr. Root gracefully took on the challenge of managing over twice as many majors, degree plans, and dean’s checks that come with the role of a double-dean.

"I have a strong devotion to what both schools do," Root said. "I really believe in the mission of what we are doing in both education and humanities."

Dr. Root has worked with many of the faculty members in the School of Humanities since 1991, some of whom were former students of his.

"It is fulfilling to be able to work with great people over a long period of time," Dr. Root said. "That's been true in humanities and is certainly becoming true in education."

Photo by Justin Trostle