

**Gary O. Warford, Ed.D**  
**184 Varney Street**  
**Cedar Bluff, VA 24609**

## **Professional Summary**

Dynamic education and athletics leader with over 20 years of experience in academia, program management, and team leadership. Skilled in strategic planning, conflict resolution, and fostering inclusive, high-performance environments. Proven track record in driving academic and athletic growth through strategic planning, successful fundraising, and community engagement.

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## **Work Experience**

### **Athletic Director**

*Southwest Virginia Community College, Cedar Bluff, VA*  
September 2024-Present

- Directed and oversaw all athletic department operations, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and compliance with NJCAA and Region X standards.
- Implemented new professional development for the athletic staff.
- Strengthened relationships with alumni, donors, and community partners, resulting in increased funding and support for athletic programs. Including the creation of the SWCC Hall of Fame.
- Developed and executed strategic plans to enhance student-athlete academic support, contributing to improvement in GPA and eligibility rates across teams.
- Oversaw budget management and resource allocation, optimizing funding to expand facilities, improve equipment, and support program growth.
- Led the coaching staff in establishing a positive culture focused on teamwork, accountability, and athletic excellence, reinforcing college values.

### **Assistant Director of Athletics**

*Southwest Virginia Community College, Cedar Bluff, VA*  
October 2023 – Present

- Cultivated a positive, inclusive team culture to support student-athletes' success.
- Boosted athletic program visibility through media collaborations that highlighted student achievements both on and off the field.
- Led fundraising campaigns, generating significant financial contributions from alumni, local businesses, and community supporters.
- Recruited and retained top-tier coaching staff, reducing turnover and enhancing program stability.
- Negotiated cost-effective vendor contracts, reducing operational costs without compromising quality.
- Effectively managed budgets and expenditures, ensuring fiscal responsibility and maximizing resource use.

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**Head Men's and Women's Soccer Coach / Student Athlete International Liaison**

*Southwest Virginia Community College, Cedar Bluff, VA*

August 2022 – October 2023

- Organized successful fundraising initiatives, securing funds for team equipment upgrades, travel expenses, and scholarship opportunities.
- Increased community engagement by hosting soccer outreach clinics and events, boosting youth program enrollment and social media footprint.
- Enhanced academic support for student-athletes, contributing to an improvement in eligibility rates.
- Advanced player skills development by tailoring training programs to individual strengths and weaknesses.
- Built strategic partnerships with local schools and clubs for talent recruitment, expanding the program's reach.

**Academic Supervisor / Director**

*Horizons Youth Services LLC*

November 2021 – May 2022

- Designed and implemented professional development workshops to enhance faculty teaching skills and alignment with industry trends.
- Created an engaging, student-centered learning environment by optimizing classroom arrangements and resources.
- Led initiatives that increased access to advanced courses for underrepresented students, promoting equity in education.
- Successfully onboarded and oriented new students, resulting in a higher engagement rate among incoming students.

**Head Women's Soccer Coach**

*University of Pikeville*

May 2011 – September 2021

- Enhanced athletic performance and behavior standards through structured training and mentorship.
- Promoted sportsmanship values and respect for all participants, fostering a positive team environment.
- Leveraged social media and community relations to increase support and visibility for the soccer program.
- Developed and maintained a network of local and regional resources to support athletes' personal and professional growth.

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**Assistant Professor of Education**

*University of Pikeville*

June 2011 – May 2015

- Secured research funding through competitive grant writing and collaborations with industry sponsors.
  - Advocated for diversity and inclusion in the classroom by incorporating culturally responsive practices and diverse content.
  - Enhanced academic achievement through individualized mentoring and targeted student support initiatives.
  - Established partnerships with institutions to promote collaborative research and student exchange programs, enriching learning experiences globally.
  - Worked closely with Academic Dean's and other stakeholders during the University of Pikeville's SACSCOC accreditation process.
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**Education**

- **Doctorate in Instructional Leadership** – Northcentral University, San Diego, CA, 2020
  - **Master's Degree in Educational Leadership** – Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY
  - **Bachelor of Arts in Education (Teaching)** – Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY
  - **Bachelor of Arts in History** – Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY
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**Certifications**

- **KTRS Social Studies 8-12 Rank I Teacher Certification**
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**Affiliations**

- Member of The National Society of Leadership and Success
  - Member of the Northcentral University Distinguished Alumni Association
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## **Presentations**

- KEA Keynote Speaker, 2013
  - EKSC Keynote Address, 2012
  - College Cup El Salvador, Presenter, 2016
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## **Awards**

- Distinguished Service to Education, University of Pikeville, 2012–2013
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## **References**

Available upon request.