



I am The **ROCK**

Deborah Whitfield

Job: Professor of computer science.

Joined SRU: 1991.

Background: I was born in Youngstown, Ohio. I graduated from Boardman High School in 1982 and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from Youngtown State University in 1985. I worked as a software engineer for ITT in Columbus, Ohio, before going back to school and earning a master's degree and doctoral in computer science at the University of Pittsburgh in 1988 and 1991.

Interests: I am an avid Cleveland Browns fan. I graduated from high school with Bernie Kosar, the former Browns' quarterback. I also relax by playing the piano and reading, especially fantasy and science fiction.

Person I'd like to have dinner with: Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Why I work at The Rock: During graduate school, I worked as both a teaching assistant and a research assistant and enjoyed both, but I found great satisfaction in being able to research topics and convey the results to others. Thus, I looked for an academic position where teaching had a stronger emphasis than research. When I interviewed at SRU, I discovered a beautiful campus with friendly students, faculty, staff and administrators. I took the job 20 years ago and do not regret my decision. SRU is a great fit for me since it values quality education, the classroom size is small so I get to know my students, and SRU emphasizes computing.

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