

Dr. Shawn Cruzen – Biography

Dr. Shawn Cruzen joined the faculty of Columbus State University in 1997. He is a Full Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Executive Director of CSU's Coca-Cola Space Science Center (CCSSC).

Dr. Cruzen began his career in science as an amateur astronomer in Colorado. He attended the University of Southern Colorado and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics in 1992. His post-graduate work was done at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), where he was awarded the NASA Space Grant Fellowship to perform research in extra-galactic astronomy. He received his Ph.D. from UNLV in 1997 and performed research using the Hubble Space Telescope.

Dr. Cruzen has taught courses in both astronomy and physics at Columbus State University. He is a five-time nominee for CSU's Educator of the Year, and has won the award twice. He also has received the CSU College of Science Outstanding Educator Award (2000), CSU's Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award (2012), WRBL's MEA Golden Apple Award (2012) the USG Chancellor's Leadership Excellence Award (Honorable Mention - 2016), and a Group Achievement Award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (2018).

Dr. Cruzen served as the inaugural department chair for CSU's Department of Earth and Space Sciences which has major tracks in Geology, Astrophysics & Planetary Geology, and Environmental Science.

Since becoming the Executive Director of the Space Science Center in October of 2004, he has worked diligently to grow the impact of the facility on education and tourism in the region.