

**Robert Brinkmann, Ph.D.**  
**Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**DeKalb, IL 60115**

Senior leader with more than 20 years of higher education and administrative experience. Strategic, collaborative, and positive thinker with expertise in sustainability, research and budget management, curriculum, government relations and fundraising, diversity and inclusion, accreditation, international affairs, economic development, and stakeholder engagement with faculty, staff, alumni, and community. Strong academic with extensive publication experience as an author and editor. Results oriented problem solver in love with the idea that universities transform the lives of our students and their families.

### **Education**

Ph.D., Geography. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

M.S., Geology. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

B.S., Geology. University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

### **Administrative Experience**

**Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.** Northern Illinois University (2020-the present). Oversee a complex college at a high R2 university with \$50+ million in budget authority + equal budget in endowed funds, and \$30 million in research funding. Manage 24 departments and centers with 400 faculty, 200 staff, and 5000 graduate and undergraduate students. Led major efforts in new high-enrollment program development, budget realignment, capital campaign planning, program evaluation, rebranding and revisioning, student success and access, faculty and chair professional development, and community engagement. Worked closely with senior leadership on major university initiatives in transdisciplinary curriculum and university budget planning and deficit reduction. Reappointed in 2025.

**Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies/Director of Sustainability Studies.** Hofstra University (2011-July 2019). Hofstra University is the largest private university on Long Island. Along with traditional schools in arts and sciences, business, communication, and education, it has a medical school, law school, and engineering school. Its 11,000 students are divided roughly between undergraduate and graduate programs. I served as the Vice Provost for Scholarship and Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. I worked closely with the Provost, the President and the Cabinet, Finance, Student Affairs, Deans, and the Faculty Senate. My office worked to enhance and expand graduate programs and to increase sponsored research funding. Prior to

serving in that role, I served as the Director of Sustainability Studies and developed new undergraduate and graduate programs in sustainability.

**Interim Associate Dean for Faculty.** University of South Florida (1990-2011). I served in a variety of administrative roles at the University of South Florida including Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, Chair, and Graduate Director.

## **Key Administrative Accomplishments and Experience**

- Program Development: Created new interdisciplinary programs and provided opportunities for cross disciplinary tenure, evaluations, and curricular development. Enhanced and expanded graduate programs in a variety of areas including health sciences, business, and interdisciplinary programs.
- Leadership Training: Alumni of the EAB Future Presidents Intensive.
- Research: Expanded research funding and enhanced research policy and procedures
- Sustainability: Worked with the United Nations, a variety of national, state, and local governments, and the private sector on a range of sustainability planning initiatives. Provided leadership for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability.
- International Affairs: Expanded the reach of my organizations to key areas of the world, particularly Southeast Asia and Africa.
- Faculty Affairs: Managed tenure and promotion processes, faculty hiring, and faculty annual evaluations.
- Faculty Governance: Oversaw revisions to faculty governance documents. Served as the liaison to a variety of faculty committees including Graduate Committee, Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee, Ad Hoc Governance Committee, and Environmental Affairs Committee.
- Diversity: Enhanced diversity of faculty. Promoted cluster hiring. Advanced diversity research grants and funding. Started the first Diversity Committee at the University of South Florida. Worked on a variety of diversity initiatives including work on the LGBTQ+ Task Force and the development of equity assessments in student success.
- Fundraising: Involved in capital campaign development. Worked with key donors to enhance giving to the College of Arts and Sciences. Worked to steward long-term donors. Exceeded all fundraising goals. Awarded the Eddie Mitchell Award by the Tampa Hillsborough Human Rights Task Force for fundraising efforts in the community.
- Budget: Manage a large college budget of over \$50 million dollars. Worked with a team of three to develop a new budget model for NIU that addresses structural deficits. Worked with the Provost to make key budget decisions; managed large university-wide grant budgets; conducted annual program reviews to make key budget decisions. Extensive grant and contract budget experience.
- Accreditation and Strategic Planning. Was responsible for key Higher Learning Commission, SACS, and Middle States accreditation initiatives. Served on several

strategic planning task force initiatives including current strategic planning in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

- **Community:** Developed a range of community-based engagement programs. Served on the Long Island Economic Development writing team. Completed several community-based teaching and research projects in the Tampa Bay and New York City region. Involved with a range of government relations activities.

## **Positions Held**

2020-the present: **Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**, Northern Illinois University, Professor of Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment

2017-2019: **Vice Provost for Scholarship and Research, Dean of Graduate Studies**, Hofstra University

2011-2016: **Director** of Sustainability Studies, **Director** of Sustainability Research, National Center for Suburban Studies. Hofstra University.

2011-2020: **Professor** in the Department of Geology, Environment, and Sustainability,

2009-2011: **Professor**, Department of Geography, University of South Florida.

2005-2009: **Chair**, Department of Geography, University of South Florida.

2003-2004: **Interim Associate Dean for Faculty and Program Development**, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Florida.

2000-2003: **Chair**, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of South Florida.

1990-2011: **Faculty Member**, Department of Geography, University of South Florida. Promoted to Associate Professor in 1995 and Full Professor in 2002.

## **Editorships**

2011-2017. Associate Editor *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*

2007-2011. *The Southeastern Geographer* (Co-Editor with Graham A. Tobin)

2011. Guest co-editor of a special issue of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* focused on karst and sustainability.

## **Recent Board Memberships and Leadership Roles in Professional Organizations**

Board Member, Northern Illinois Research Foundation, 2021-present. Interim President of the board, 2023. Current Vice President.

Member of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Outreach Working Group, 2023-present.

Member, American Geosciences Institute Geoscience Policy Program Advisory Committee, 2018-2021.

Chair and Board member, National Cave and Karst Research Institute, 2010-2019 (elected to Vice Chair position in 2011 and Chair in 2013 (served until 2018)).

Member of the Writing Team of the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council. 2012-2016.

Member, Association of American Geographers Awards Committee, 2009-2011

Technical Advisory Board, USF Clean Energy Research Center, 2009-2011

Research Board Member, USF Institute for Research in Art, 2008- 2011

President, Florida Society of Geographers, 2009-2010

## **Key Publications Since 2013**

Brinkmann, R. and Oo, C.W. (2025), *Palgrave Handbook of Practical Sustainability*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Brinkmann, R. (2023). *Palgrave Global Handbook of Sustainability*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Brinkmann, R. (2021). *Practical Sustainability: A Guide to a More Sustainable Life*. Palgrave Macmillan, 302 p.

Brinkmann, R. 2016. *Introduction to Sustainability 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. John Wiley and Sons 336 p.

Brinkmann, R. and Garren S. (Eds.). 2020. *Case Studies in Suburban Sustainability*. University Press of Florida.

Brinkmann, R. 2019. *Environmental Sustainability in a Time of Change*. Palgrave Macmillan, 332 p.

Brinkmann, R. and Garren, S. (Eds). 2018. *Handbook of Sustainability: Case Studies and Practical Solutions*. Palgrave, 871 p.

Brinkmann, R. 2016. *Introduction to Sustainability*. John Wiley and Sons 336 p.

Brinkmann, R. 2013. *The Science and Policy of Sinkholes in Florida*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 256 p.