

## Dr. Darrell P. Kruger Biographical Sketch

Dr. Kruger is a full professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at Appalachian State University. Most recently he served as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at Appalachian State University from 2015 to 2020. Under his leadership as Provost Appalachian: enrollment grew to 20,000 students; added 46 new fulltime faculty positions to support enrollment growth; student and faculty diversity increased significantly; graduation and retention rates rose to all-time highs; academic space grew to include the opening of the new \$70 million Leon Levine Hall of Health Sciences and Howard Street Hall; opened the Major General Edward M. Reeder, Jr. Student Veteran Resource Center; opened the Academy at Middle Fork (K-5) in Winston-Salem; added 30 high demand undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs; had a successful 5<sup>th</sup> Year SACS-COC accreditation review; saw the creation of AppState Online previously distance education; and Appalachian ranked first as a master's comprehensive university for faculty Fulbright recipients. Dr. Kruger has secured more than \$4.4 million in external grants and contracts from federal and private foundations including the National Geographic Society and State Farm Insurance. Prior to his tenure as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, he served as Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans (2013-2015.) He spent more than a decade (2002-2013) at Illinois State University where he taught as a faculty member before serving as Interim Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (2011-2013), Associate Dean of the College of Education (2005-2010), and the Director of the Illinois Geographic Alliance (2002-2013) promoting K-20 geographic literacy working with the National Geographic Society Education Foundation. He was an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow in 2010-2011 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Kruger started his higher education career at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (1995-2002) where he taught undergraduate and graduate geography courses and served as the Co-Director of the Louisiana Geographic Education Alliance (2001-2002.) At the University of Louisiana at Monroe he was awarded the Tom and Mayme Scott Endowed Professorship in Teaching Excellence. Dr. Kruger earned both his graduate Geography degrees at Louisiana State University. He was born and raised in South Africa and earned his B.A. (Geography) and B.A. (Honors Geography) degrees at Stellenbosch University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal respectively. Dr. Kruger's leadership approach to serve students, faculty, and staff as well as bridge perceived boundaries has been influenced by his experiences as a bilingual immigrant and first-generation university graduate.