

Mark Brennan, Ph.D. is the UNESCO Chair for Rural Community, Leadership, and Youth Development and Professor of Leadership and Community Development at Penn State University. Dr. Brennan's teaching, research, writing, and program development concentrates on the role of community and leadership development in the youth, community, and rural development process. In this context, much of his work has focused on community action, youth development, locally based natural resource management, economic development, and social justice.

He has over 20 years' experience designing, conducting, and analyzing social science research related to community and rural development. This work has involved extensive comparative research throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America. Dr. Brennan's research and program development has been funded by a variety of government, foundation, and private sources and resulting in over 100 publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, books, and Extension publications, and over 80 presentations at professional meetings. His recent books include *Contemporary Theories of Community and Development* (2012) and *Community Leadership Development: A Compendium of Theory, Research, and Application* (2013). All research outputs have been translated into teaching and outreach curriculum to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to a wider international audience.

Dr. Brennan has been awarded several prestigious research fellowships designed to facilitate international comparative research in the areas of rural community and youth development. He served as a *Fulbright Scholar* in 2011 conducting research on rural community and youth capacity building and in 2008 was named a Research Fellow with the National University of Ireland, Galway UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. In 2007 he was awarded a research fellowship by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) conducting research on rural community sustainability, food security, and rural development.

Based on his research, teaching and outreach accomplishments, Dr. Brennan was awarded the 2010 Community Development Society Current Research Award, the 2010 National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) Excellence in Community Development Programming Award, and 2008 University of Florida Outstanding Faculty Research Award. He was named a *Penn State Distinguished Honors Faculty* in 2010.

Finally, Dr. Brennan has served as chair/co-chair on a variety of national committees and provides consultation for professional associations, government agencies, and international agencies. He serves on the editorial review boards for several journals including the *Journal of the Community Development Society*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, and the *Community Development Journal*. He is the Editor of the policy journal *Rural Realities* and Editor for Special Issues of the *Journal of the Community Development Society*.