



Prof. Bryan E. Penprase

Vice President for Sponsored Research and External Academic Relations

Soka University of America

Biosketch:

Dr. Bryan Penprase is the Vice President for Sponsored Research and External Academic Relations at Soka University of America, where he develops strategic partnerships and works on collaborations with universities and colleges to advance undergraduate education and research at Soka University. He formerly served as Dean of Faculty for three years at Soka University, where he worked to create new academic programs, and managed the curriculum design, hiring and implementation of a new Concentration in Life Sciences. Bryan also has been actively developing global liberal arts collaborations, most recently with an international conference at Soka University of America, and has organized liberal arts symposia in Singapore, India, and at Yale University. He previously was a Professor of Science and founding Director of the Teaching and Learning Center at Yale-NUS College in Singapore, and served as an American Council on Education (ACE) fellow at Yale University in 2012-13, where he was mentored by Yale's President, Peter Salovey. During the ACE fellowship, Bryan was part of the team that designed the curriculum for the new Yale-NUS College in Singapore and also advised the Yale leadership on topics including online learning, teaching and learning centers and programs for first-generation and underrepresented minority students. Bryan served for 20 years as a professor of Physics and Astronomy at Pomona College, where he served as a department chair, and was the inaugural co-director the Liberal Arts Consortium for Online Learning (LACOL). Bryan received both a BS in Physics and an MS in Applied Physics from Stanford University in 1985, and a PhD from the University of Chicago in Astronomy and Astrophysics in 1992. Bryan's research includes nearly all aspects of observational astrophysics, using telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope and the Keck Telescope in Hawaii. He is the author of two books, which includes *STEM Education for the 21st Century*, and *The Power of Stars – How Celestial Observations Have Shaped Civilization*, both published by Springer, Inc., Bryan has lectured across the world in conferences and

public talks about emerging models of higher education, global liberal arts, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the intersections between culture and astronomy, and astrophysics research. He has taught a course Archaeoastronomy and World Cosmology at Pomona College for over 15 years, and led expeditions to study the astronomy of Native American groups across the Southwest, as well as numerous solar eclipse trips. Bryan has authored or co-authored over 60 peer-reviewed research articles, in the *Astrophysical Journal*, *Astronomical Journal*, in *Nature* and *Science* and other publications. He has served on numerous NSF and NASA review panels, including the HST Time Allocation Committee and the NASA/Keck Time Allocation Committee. His most recent research program is a collaboration with Caltech to develop the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) and a Global Relay of Observatories known as GROWTH for studying gamma ray bursts, new supernovae, and the electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational wave sources.