

Eric Link currently serves as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of North Dakota. Prior to joining UND in 2021, he served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Houston Downtown. He has also served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Purdue University Fort Wayne, as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Chair of the Department of English at the University of Memphis, and as Head of the Department of Language and Literature at the University of North Georgia, where he also held roles as Assessment Coordinator, Graduate Studies Director, Internship Coordinator, and as Parliamentarian to the Faculty Senate.

Eric earned his Ph.D. in American literature from Purdue University. An internationally recognized and award-winning teacher and scholar, his teaching and research fields span the field of American literature, with specializations in both 19th-Century American Literature and Science Fiction. He is the author of four books and the editor of six books. His authored books include *The Vast and Terrible Drama: American Literary Naturalism in the Late Nineteenth Century* (2004) and *Understanding Philip K. Dick* (2010). His edited volumes include *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction* (2019), *The Cambridge Companion to American Science Fiction* (2015), and the *Norton Critical Edition of The Red Badge of Courage* (2008). He also founded and edited, with Steve Frye, the journal *ALN: The American Literary Naturalism Newsletter*. Aside from these volumes, Eric has published over fifty journal articles, book chapters, and other essays on topics ranging across the field of American literary studies. His scholarship has won multiple awards, and in Spring 2015 he was presented with the Distinguished Research Award in Humanities from the University of Memphis. He was also named the Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Learning at North Georgia College & State University in 2007, where he held an endowed professorship from 1999-2008.

Eric has twice served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar, most recently at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland (2012), and before that in Lutsk, Ukraine, where he taught American literature and consulted on program and curriculum development at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University (2008). He has also lectured and presented on a variety of research topics at universities in China, Iceland, Sweden, and England.

With a life-long commitment to the mission of the modern public university, Eric has been a strong advocate for the ongoing vitality of higher education in the United States. Through an administrative career spanning three decades he has worked side-by-side with faculty, staff, and students to create and support quality academic programming and innovative student-centered educational experiences, and to build strong ties with local and regional communities.

Eric lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota, with his wife, Dr. Laura Link, a professor of educational leadership at the University of North Dakota. They have four grown children—Sarah, Nathaniel, Natalie, and Nolan—a rescue dog named Tilly and a rescue cat named Shadow.