Los Alamos Dynamics
Summer School Program 2014

Speaker: Steve Girrens, Associate Director, Engineering Sciences

Bio: Steven Girrens is the Associate Director for Engineering Science (ADE) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Dr. Girrens has over 35 years of diverse experience, including 33 years at the Laboratory, working as a line and program manager and project leader, as well as a practicing mechanical engineer, developing and applying engineering technologies to solve problems in national security. As Associate Director, Dr. Girrens provides leadership for the operation and management of the directorate, including a staff of approximately 450 employees, postdocs and students, and an annual budget of ~$160M.

Joining the Laboratory as a Technical Staff Member, Dr. Girrens has served many roles including leader for the Engineering Sciences and Applications Division, which over the time period 1994-2006 was the engineering arm of the Laboratory’s nuclear weapons program, and over six years as the Engineering Analysis Group Leader. His most recent assignment prior to ADE was as the leader of the Technology Transfer Division facilitating the development of R&D partnerships with industry. During his 10-year tenure in the nuclear weapons program, Dr. Girrens championed the development of an Advanced Simulation and Computing engineering component at LANL, architected an engineering campaign to perform the experiments to validate the modeling and simulation tools, and championed the integration of this analysis perspective into the engineering certification process implemented in the MK4A/W76-1 LEP.

Outside of two stints in Washington, D.C., Steve has spent the majority of his career in Los Alamos working at the Laboratory. He worked a stretch in the private sector for ARES.
Corp., an engineering services firm, 2006 thru 2008. Dr. Girrens is a registered P.E. in New Mexico since 1983.

Steve and his wife Sharon Stover reside in White Rock; their two adult children live and work in Denver. He has lived in White Rock since moving to New Mexico in January 1979. Steve was raised on a wheat and dairy farm outside Wichita, Kansas. Over the years Steve has been active contributing to community youth groups, volunteering as a Little League coach and umpire and serving on Los Alamos County Boards and Commissions. This past January he was sworn in to serve a 4-year elected term on the Los Alamos County Council.