



John Wooschlager Ph.D.

***Director of the Emergent Technologies Institute
Director of Engineering Graduate Programs
Backe Chair Eminent Scholar Professor***

John Wooschlager is the Director of the Emergent Technologies Institute (ETI), Backe Chair Eminent Scholar Professor, and is the Director of Engineering Graduate Programs at Florida Gulf Coast University. Dr. Wooschlager's major responsibilities include leading the development of the university-wide Emergent Technologies Institute, significantly increasing interdisciplinary external research funding, leading the development of new graduate engineering programs, organizing and conducting outreach activities, and supporting efforts to attract industry partners focused on developing renewable energy and environmental technologies to Southwest Florida.

Prior to joining FGCU, Dr. Wooschlager was the Director of the Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University (SLU) that was the first to offer a M.S in Sustainability in the Midwest and was the third to offer a Ph.D. in Sustainability Science in the United States. Under Dr. Wooschlager's leadership, the Center for Sustainability doubled its full-time equivalent students, developed significant funded research, added new faculty positions, and created new academic programs. Dr. Wooschlager joined SLU as the Founding Chair of Civil Engineering in 2010 and he led that department through its initial growth phase and ABET accreditation. Dr. Wooschlager held prior faculty appointments at Arizona State University and at the University of North Florida.

Dr. Wooschlager has a Ph.D. and M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Northwestern University and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has been awarded over three million-dollars of collaborative funding supporting his research focused on the analysis and modeling of environmental systems. Some examples of his projects include the neural-network optimization of large-scale urban drinking water systems to improve water quality and save energy, process optimization of wastewater treatment plants to achieve nutrient pollution reduction and reduce energy consumption, applied research addressing global energy and sanitation issues in developing nations, and analysis of regional sustainability issues to create smarter, more energy efficient, and sustainable cities and infrastructures. One of his latest major projects was a 4.8 million-dollar grant partnered with the East-West Gateway Council of Governments supporting the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) project funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Wooschlager's role on the RPSD project was to utilize GIS based simulation models to evaluate regional water sustainability issues, such as water supply, water quality, and flooding, for various growth and policy scenarios.