

Ross Gittell, Ph.D., is the ninth president of Bryant University. Under his leadership, the university continues to ascend in rankings, affirming the superior return on investment of a Bryant education and positioning the institution to better navigate the ever-changing higher education landscape. Drawing on his expertise in strategic management and as an economist and economic development scholar, President Gittell has guided Bryant through the creation and implementation of its strategic plan, Vision 2030.

[\*Vision 2030: Innovation and Agility with Purpose\*](#) charts a bold path for the future of Bryant University. Supported by its strategic pillars and building on Bryant's foundational strengths and its integrated academic approach, Vision 2030 is propelling the institution toward a deserved place of national recognition for its transformational learning experiences, exceptional outcomes, and development of passionate, purpose-driven leaders.

President Gittell began his tenure during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020. Determined to keep the campus open and operating as normally as possible, Gittell's first challenge as president was to figure out how to reopen the campus that fall while ensuring the health and safety of Bryant's students, faculty, and staff. As a result of strong leadership, shared commitment from the community, and creative problem-solving, Bryant University was one of only a few higher education institutions to remain open with uninterrupted in-person classes. The success of those early days of his presidency is reflected in Bryant's 2023 graduates, who, despite the challenges of learning during unprecedented times, [achieved the highest return on investment in university history](#).

President Gittell previously served as Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH). During his tenure, CCSNH realized unprecedented tuition stability, achieved capital improvements, and made strong progress on retention and completion strategies to support student success.

Prior to his appointment as CCSNH Chancellor, he was the James R. Carter Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Management at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire. With a teaching career spanning more than 20 years, President Gittell also served as an Adjunct Lecturer on Education at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and he was a Visiting Scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's New England Public Policy Center.

Highly regarded for his economic analysis and forecasting, President Gittell has frequently served as an expert resource for government, non-profit, and business leaders. His extensive background in teaching, strategic planning, and management has guided his academic focus – applying economic, organizational, and management theory to regional, state, and community economic development issues.

Among many civic leadership roles, President Gittell is Vice President, Board Member and Forecast Chair for the non-profit New England Economic Partnership and is active with the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), an institutional accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education. President Gittell chaired NECHE team visits to the Maine Higher Education System, and Fulbright University in Vietnam.

He is extensively published and is the author of *Renewing Cities*, and the co-author of *The Sustainable Business Casebook*, *Activist Scholar*, and *Community Organizing: Building Social Capital as a Development Strategy*. In addition to numerous academic articles, and professional studies, President Gittell has been published in academic journals including the *New England Economic Review*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Regional Studies*, *National Civic Review*, and the *Journal of Entrepreneurial and Small Business Finance*.

President Gittell earned his Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University, Dively Fellow; his MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, Beta Gamma Sigma; and his BA in Economics from the University of Chicago, Phi Beta Kappa.