Ronald Durnford has served as Vice President for planning and institutional research at Xavier University of Louisiana since the fall of 2006. He has helped to rebuild and stabilize the institution's planning processes following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina which closed the campus for six months.

Prior to his work at Xavier, Durnford built his professional career at the University of Chicago in various administrative positions, including his ten-year tenure as the Associate Dean of the Social Sciences Division.

Durnford received his B.A. degree in political science from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago.

In addition to institutional planning and academic administration, Dunford's other concentrations include institutional effectiveness, accreditation processes, and assessment.
The Six Competencies of Planning

☐ People—the ability to understand and identify the players who are or should be part of the planning process and their roles

☐ Language—the ability to use a common planning vocabulary to interpret and translate the ideas of all players

☐ Process—learn how to create and facilitate an integrated planning process; provide guidance and leadership through all stages of planning, including managing change

☐ The Plan (as in the document)—the ability to recognize and produce the elements of a written, integrated plan that can be implemented and evaluated

☐ Planning Context—the ability to collect and filter relevant information of the internal and external environment

☐ Resources—the ability to identify alternative and realistic resource strategies and align them to stated plan priorities

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Integrated Planning, you say...

must be channeled to a shared vision and a defined direction, at least for the specified period of the plan. To be successful, planning must integrate the needs of a community with the goals and aspirations of its leaders.

Integrated planning tends to be built on broad engagement, a defined process, and open communication. It will emerge from reliable data and information that underscores strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Ultimately, integrated planning shapes this information into practical strategies that, if followed and effectively applied, will steer the organization towards growth that is harmonious with the internal and external environment.