**[Chris Gearhart](mailto:chris.gearhart@nrel.gov)**   
Chris Gearhart was appointed director of the Transportation and Hydrogen Systems Center after joining the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as director of the Hydrogen Technologies and Systems Center in late 2012. In more than 16 years with Ford Motor Company, Gearhart led research and development teams in that company's Fuel Cell System, Stack, and Hydrogen Storage groups. Additionally, he previously held positions in product development, safety research, and quality assurance programs. Gearhart has also served on the faculty of Michigan State University and the School for Renewable Energy Science in Akureyri, Iceland. He holds doctorate and master's degrees in physics from Washington University in St. Louis, and a bachelor's degree in physics and math from Drake University.