Sheila Brillson, Executive Director

Ms. Brillson serves as Executive Director of the South Shore Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest and the Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest. She is a collaborator and team builder with deep experience in government operations, education and community service. As a former public-school teacher, neighborhood organizer, two term councilwoman and two term mayor of Michigan City, Sheila has expertise in community-building, operations, and quality improvement. Ms. Brillson has led successful ventures in community health initiatives, education and capital project planning/ implementation. She has worked collaboratively at the regional, state and federal level on diverse matters including education, community leadership, housing, healthcare and the environment.

As mayor, Ms. Brillson co-founded the Safe Harbor After School Enrichment program. She created and led the EDCMC, an economic development corporation which encourages investment and job growth for northern Indiana. She fought for the final casino license for LaPorte County and negotiated the gaming development agreements which has resulted in over 550 million dollars in community investment funds. In recent work as National Director of Programs for Summer Advantage USA, an education non-profit, Sheila led operations across 6 states, delivering learning programs to thousands of at-risk youth. Prior work in Washington State focused on workforce development within diverse communities-veterans, Native Americans, dislocated workers and migrant seasonal farmworkers. She also served as Operations Director for the Critical Junctures Institute at Western Washington University.

Sheila is a mother of six and proud grandmother. She will be begin serving as a LaPorte County Commissioner in 2019. She has a B.A. from John Carroll University and an M.A. from Valparaiso University.