

Dr Breckinridge earned his BSc degree in Physics from Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, OH and his MSc and PhD in Optical Sciences from the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona, Tucson AZ. After his BSc degree Dr. Breckinridge was an engineer at Lick Observatory for 3 years building, testing and calibrating optical instruments. He then worked 2 years designing, building and evaluating electron optics image intensifier and image converter tubes at Rauland Corporation in Chicago, IL. He built Fourier Transform Spectrometers and Grating spectrometers at Kitt Peak National Observatory, Tucson before moving to the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. in 1976. At JPL he was an instrument scientist for ATMOS and the founding manager of the Optical Sciences and Application Section, which is responsible for the design, construction, and testing of most of the space-flight optical systems built by JPL for earth and planetary science and astrophysics. In 1994 Dr. Breckinridge became the JPL program manager for innovative imaging systems for DoD. In 1999 Dr. Breckinridge accepted an assignment to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington DC to manage the Advanced Technologies and Instruments program for the Astronomical Sciences Division. He returned to JPL in 2003 to become the chief technologist for the NASA exo-planet program. In Jan 2010 he retired from JPL after 33 years of service. Dr. Breckinridge taught the Optical Engineering class in the CALTECH Applied Physics and Aeronautics departments from 1983 to current. In 2003 he was the recipient of the George W. Goddard award of the SPIE. Dr. Breckinridge has over 130 publications and 5 patents in astronomy, physical optics, and image systems. He was elected President of the SPIE. He is an elected fellow of Optical Society of America, the SPIE and the Royal Astronomical Society of London.