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Dr. Shinn is the User Program Manager for the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies (CINT), a nanoscience user facility jointly operated by Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories for the U. S. Department of Energy's Office of Basic Energy Sciences. He is responsible for the CINT user program, partnerships, and interactions with the external scientific and business communities.

He received the B.S. degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1978 and the Ph.D. degree in Chemical Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1983. Thereafter, he was a National Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where his research involved the elucidation of surface reaction intermediates using vibrational and electronic spectroscopies in conjunction with thermal and stimulated desorption. In 1985, he joined Sandia National Laboratories as a Senior Member of the Technical Staff, later becoming the Manager of the Surface and Interface Science Department.

Dr. Shinn's research interests involve the physics and chemistry at solid surfaces. He has published over 80 scientific papers, serves on DOE and academic advisory boards, and was the 2007 President of the AVS Science & Technology society.