

Welcome to Rendezvous 2026



University of Colorado **Boulder**



Agenda

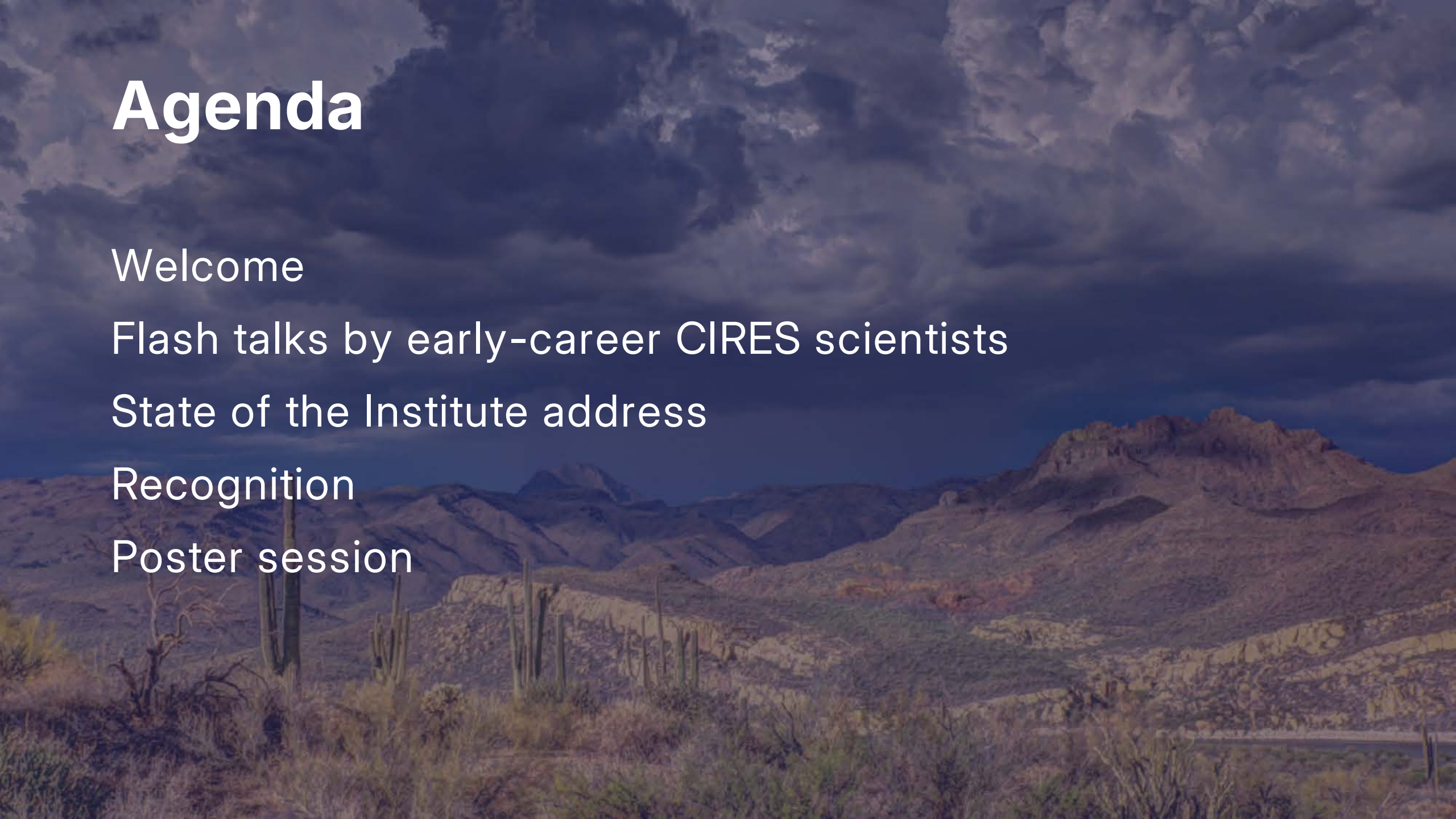
Welcome

Flash talks by early-career CIRES scientists

State of the Institute address

Recognition

Poster session



CIRES Members Council



Jeff Duda
CHAIR



Elysia Lucas
VICE CHAIR



Anne Sledd
SECRETARY



Aleya Kaushik
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Jianhao Zhang
MENTORING CHAIR



Nathan Malarich
MENTORING
VICE CHAIR



Aly Krimmer
RENDEZVOUS CHAIR



Alison Post
RENDEZVOUS
VICE CHAIR



Nels Bjarke



Scott Clingan



Mara Coe



**Agnieszka
Gautier**



Guoqing Ge



Marty Heath



Rudy Klucik
CMC DELEGATE



Corey Krimmer



Scott Lewis



Kim Moreland



Adam Schneider
CMC DELEGATE

Photos

Photos are being taken; talk to the photographers directly to opt out



Flash talks

by CIRES early-career
researchers

Rebecca Mesburis
Fire



Genevieve Clow
Water



Pedro de Melo
Air



Ethan Carr
Ice





State of the Institute

Waleed Abdalati, CIRES Director

2025 photo contest winners





Science successes

Advancing wildfire research, space weather monitoring, drought forecasting, and so much more

Developed the product generation system for SOLAR-1, the world's first operational satellite dedicated to space weather



Determined the cause of the fastest glacier retreat in modern history



**Authored a report on the
atmospheric impacts of the 2022
Hunga volcanic eruption**



Used shipborne instruments to detect a landslide-induced tsunami for the first time





SPACE WEATHER PREDICTION TESTBED



12:27
13



12:27
13

Hosted a space weather testbed to prepare NASA for the Artemis II mission

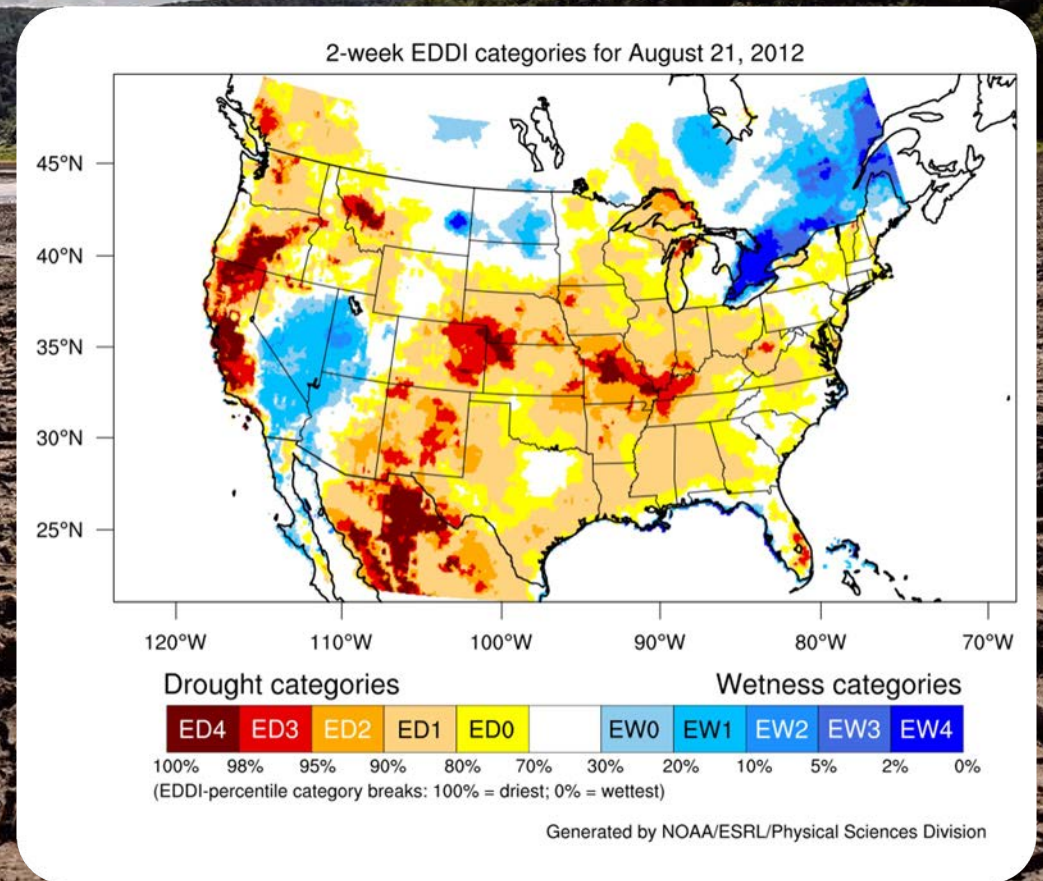
Found wildfires threaten water quality for years after they burn



**Detected an airborne toxin in the
Western Hemisphere for the first time**



Operationalized the Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)



More successes

- Published 433 peer-reviewed journal articles in the past year
- Received \$91 million in award funding
- Submitted 262 proposals in FY2025, with a success rate of 32.4%
- Completed CIESRDS 5-year review



Recognition

Years of service, promotions,
awards, and honors

An aerial photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are covered in lush green grass, with some rocky outcrops visible. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The word "Promotions" is overlaid in white text on the left side of the image.

Promotions

Research Scientist II

Shawn Murdzek
Julia Simonson
Anne Sledd
Leif Swenson
Timothy Thielke
Tongtong Xu

Research Scientist III

Ewa Bednarz
Christian Bethge
Katherine Clifford
Gabriel Dima
Jordan Guerra Aguilera
Christopher Guiterman
Colin Gurganus
Jian He
Christine Hesed
Jianhao Zhang
Yunqian Zhu

Senior Research Scientist

Mark Miesch
Twila Moon
Ilana Pollack
Sang-Ik Shin

Administrative Associate II

Libby O'Neall
Hailey Robe

Administrative Associate III

Christen Cousins

Senior Administrative Associate

Emily Hinga
Nicole Joy
Rebecca Stossmeister

Years of service

As of May 31, 2026



5 years

Kelly Balmes
Mikala Beig
Christian Bethge
John Cartwright
Xuanyu Chen
Helen DeWitt
Peter Effertz
Kelsey Eigsti
Kevin Hallock
Jian He
Christine Hesed

Emily Hinga
I-Kuan Hu
S M Nazrul Islam
Lisa Kaser
Michael Lawler
Samantha Lee
Trevor Leonard
Garima Malhotra
Seamus McAfee
Vasileios Papadimitriou
Sylvia Reeves

Leidy Romero Alvarez
Brigitta Rongstad
Jordan Schweizer
Logan Soldo
Eleanor Waxman
Ryan Weber
Xue Wei
Brandon Wolding
Jane Wolken
Li-yin Young

10 years

Seth Arens
Athanasios Boudouridis
Mary Ellen Byers
Finn Dahl
Candida Dewes
Audrey Gaudel
Guoqing Ge
Benjamin Green
Anne Handschy
Gaelle Hervieux
Kristopher Karnauskas

Erin LeFevre
John Mund
Jay Patel
Matthew Price
Richard Saltus
Kenneth Schuldt
Sang-Ik Shin
Lawrence Spencer
Kristy Tiampo
Li Zhang
Mistia Zuckerman

15 years

Pedro Campuzano Jost
Daniel Crumly
Douglas Day
Shilpi Gupta
Larizza Krista
Matthew Love
George Millward
Donald Murray
Timothy Newberger
Dusan Odstrcil
Gopakumar Padmanabhan
Takanobu Yamaguchi

20 years

Rainer Bleck

Xinzhao Chu

Molly Crotwell

Curt A. de Koning

Irina Djalalova

Ratina Dodani

Barry Eakins

Mariangel

Fedrizzi

Noah Fierer

Andrew Jacobson

Jeffrey Peischl

Gabrielle Petron

Scott Stierle

Sonja Wolter

25 years

Elizabeth Cassano

John Cassano

Lucia Harrop

Betsy Sheffield

Welcome to Eric Anderson

CIRES Associate Director for Science



Eric comes to CIRES with more than two decades of experience studying where large bodies of water meet the atmosphere — and working where federal science meets academic research.

He will begin work on July 1.



Outstanding Performance Awards

Science and Engineering, Science Service,
and Administrative Service

CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE and ENGINEERING



Samuel Califf (NOAA NCEI)

For his leadership and scientific contributions to the Iridium World Magnetic Model Shadow Model project, his significant contributions to the 14th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field, and his exceptional collaborative work across multiple agencies and international teams.

CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE and ENGINEERING



Michael Robinson (NOAA CSL)

For his contributions to the scientific understanding of urban air quality through dedicated instrument development, field observations, and data analysis.

CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE and ENGINEERING



Jian He (NOAA CSL)

For her contributions to the scientific understanding of the sources of atmospheric methane and advancing NOAA's ability to model atmospheric composition.

CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE SERVICE



**Guoqing Ge, Junjun Hu, Sijie Pan,
and Chunhua Zhou (NOAA GSL)**

For their development of an operation-oriented, community-flexible, end-to-end scientific workflow that has significantly accelerated the development of NOAA's next-generation Rapid Refresh Forecast System.



CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE SERVICE



Amanda Leon (NSIDC)

For her leadership in shaping a sustainable model for Earth science data stewardship that will serve the scientific community for decades to come.

CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE SERVICE



Matthew L. Druckenmiller (NSIDC)

For his leadership in organizing and hosting the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2025 and the Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV Summit) at CU Boulder in March 2025.

CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

SCIENCE SERVICE



Kelsey Eigsti (NOAA NIDIS)

For her leadership in developing NIDIS's Mississippi River Basin Drought and Water Dashboard.


CIRES Outstanding Performance Awards

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE



Anne Handschy

For her role in supporting CIRES chemistry research groups.

A row of dark blue award boxes with gold stitching. The first box is open, revealing a silver medal inside. The medal is circular and features the University of Colorado Boulder logo. Text on the box includes 'University of Colorado Boulder', 'CIRES', 'For Meritorious Service to Science', 'Wenfei Liao', and '2022'.

Medals and other awards

Bronze Medal

The SABRE team:

Adam Ahern, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Asher, Alex Baron,
Geoff Dutton, Colin Gurganus, Eric Hintsa,
Eric Jensen, Michael Lawler, Ming Lyu, Fred Moore,
David Nance, Catherine Rasco, Eric Ray, Michael A. Robinson,
Samuel Taylor, and Eleanor Waxman

For their remarkable accomplishments in conceiving, planning and executing the 2023 NOAA SABRE airborne science mission.



Bronze Medal



**Steve Borenstein, Tim
Newberger, and Sonja Wolter**

For creating the High-altitude
Operational Returning Uncrewed
System (HORUS).

CIRES @ SWPC Service Award



Jordan Guerra Aquilera, Andrew Marble, and Mark Miesch

For their exceptional leadership in fostering a resilient and equitable workforce at the Space Weather Prediction Center.

2025 NOAA OAR Team Member of the Year



Daniel Abdi

For his exemplary leadership in spearheading the development of HRRR Cast, a groundbreaking machine learning framework that has redefined high-resolution weather forecasting.

Armstrong Memorial Scholarship

Honors long-time NSIDC scientist Richard Armstrong



Douglas Eleonzo Castro

Environmental Biogeochemistry Group

For his work studying microplastics and other contaminants in alpine ecosystems, as well as his outreach efforts to engage young Latino students in STEM fields.

2025 NOAA NESDIS Outstanding Science and Research Team Member Award



The CCOR-1 team: Dimitrios Vassiliadis, William Rowland, Christen Bethge, Tyler Gardner, Gabriel Dima, Elysia Lucas, Vicente Salinas, Andrew Wilson, Donald Schmit, Jeff Johnson, Nathan Miles, Michael Burek, Martin Aubrey, and George Millward

For their demonstrated excellence in providing sensor-derived products and interpretive analyses; acquiring, processing, and storing environmental data and ground processing systems; and improving on existing environmental information products to enhance utility, clarity, or efficiency.

2025 NESDIS Outstanding Support and Policy Team Members

Chris Slater and Rudy Klucik

For their contributions to the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Gazetteer team. This team is recognized for their leadership in the international effort to standardize and cite over 4,500 undersea features, providing a globally authoritative geospatial database. The team successfully navigated complex international negotiations, maintaining trust and neutrality by prioritizing accessibility and fostering seamless collaboration with global partners.

Highly-Cited Researchers 2025



Jennifer Balch



Noah Fierer



Jose Jimenez

Methane Science Career Achievement Award

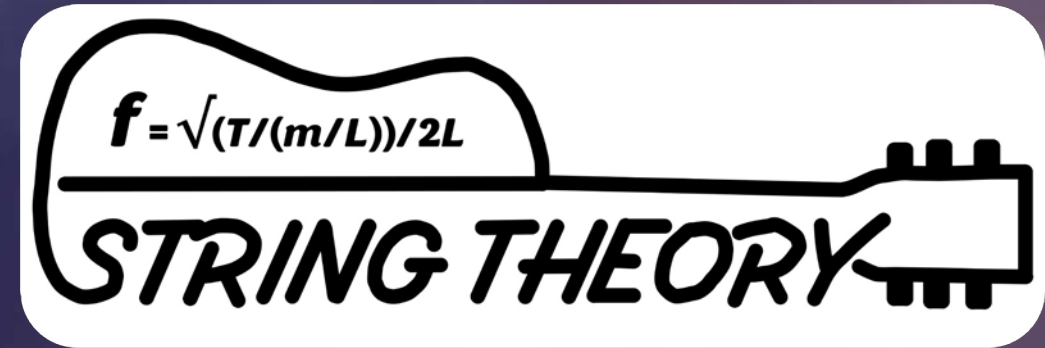
2025 AAAS Fellow



Lindsay Lan



Steve Nerem



Thank you CMC!

And our band, String Theory!

Thank you to the organizers! It takes a village!

Rendezvous Committee



Linda Pendergrass



Aly Krimmer



Alison Post



Waleed Abdalati



Nate Campbell



Susan Cobb



Wendy Elder



Becca Edwards



Annie Fudale



Lornay Hansen



Lucia Harrop



Emily Hinga



Dan Keane



Angela Knight



Corey Krimmer



LuAnn Leaman



Steve Lommele



Brigitta Rongstad
Strong



Meg Tilton



Maggie Tolbert



Lexi Swenson



David Zakavec

and to CIRES Administration and the CMC OPA Committee!

Enjoy the poster session!

Award winners: Gather by the stage to prep for photos.



University of Colorado **Boulder**

