

## Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper to Present Awards for High Impact Research

*Annual CO-LABS awards recognize achievements at Colorado's 24 federal labs and other research facilities*

**November 3, 2011**

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper will present the annual awards for "High Impact Research" on November 15 to teams from four Colorado-based research centers for breakthroughs in atmospheric science, renewable energy, sustainability and disease prevention.



CO-LABS, the non-profit that informs the public about the breakthroughs and impacts from the 24 federal labs in Colorado, is sponsoring the *2011 Governor's Award for High Impact Research*, to be held at the LEED Platinum building, located at 1800 Larimer Street in Denver, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on November 15.

Colorado is a global leader in natural resource management, climate science, renewable energy, photonics, materials science, astrophysics, telecommunications and earth science.

The scientific discoveries and innovation recognized by the Governor's awards "reflect the considerable impact of the Colorado labs as our researchers, often working together, find solutions to the most challenging national and global issues of the day," Bob Noun, chairman of CO-LABS said.

The annual reception is the major CO-LABS event to showcase the labs and raise money for the work of the CO-LABS organization. Award recipients include:

### **Atmospheric Science**

#### **The National Center for Atmospheric Research and its umbrella agency, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research**

Hickenlooper will honor NCAR for its "Innovations and Transformation of Dropsonde System Technology and Delivery Systems." Terrence Hock is the principal investigator.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research, sponsored by the National Research Foundation, advances understanding of weather, climate change, solar storms, and other events that influence the atmosphere and affect society. The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research is a consortium of more than 100 members and affiliate educational institutions that manages NCAR and oversees programs that serve the atmospheric research community.

### **Foundational Technology**

#### **The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

NREL's Jerry Olson will be awarded for his work on gallium-arsenide tandem cells, which is still the basis for high-efficiency multi-junction solar cells, including cells in the largest photovoltaic system now operating in Colorado, the 30-megawatt Amonix-Cogentrix concentrator in Alamosa.

NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy

efficiency research and development. NREL is operated for DOE by The Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

### **Sustainability**

#### **The National Snow and Ice Data Center, part of the Cooperative Institute on Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado in Boulder**

NSIDC will be awarded for its Green Data Center, which saves significant energy when enormous amounts of data on temperatures and other variables are crunched to determine trends in climate in the Arctic and glacial areas. Principal investigators are David Gallaher, Mark Serreze, and Ron Weaver.

NSIDC supports research into Earth's frozen regions, including sea ice, snow cover, glaciers, ice caps, ice sheets, permafrost, and climate interactions. NSIDC performs scientific research, manages and distributes scientific data, and educates the public. NSIDC is part of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. For more information visit <http://nsidc.org>.

### **Public Health**

#### **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's division of Vector-borne Diseases in Fort Collins**

The CDC will be awarded for "Developing Safe and Effective Vaccines to Combat Dengue," led by principal investigator Claire Y.H. Huang. The research led to a vaccine candidate against all four types of dengue virus, which is currently in two Phase 1 human trials. Dengue is a growing public health problem in at least 100 countries worldwide, infecting as many as 100 million people annually throughout the tropics and subtropics.

[CDC works 24/7](#) saving lives, protecting people from health threats, and saving money to have a more secure nation. Whether these threats are chronic or acute, manmade or natural, human error or deliberate attack, global or domestic, CDC is the U.S. health protection agency.

In addition to the award winners, Gov. Hickenlooper will be recognizing the Distinguished Finalists, including:

The United States Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station for "Quantifying the Current and Future Vulnerability of the United States Water Supply System," led by Principal Investigator Tom Brown.

The RMRS is one of seven regional units that make up the U.S. Forest Service Research and Development organization – the most extensive natural resources research organization in the world. The research conducted by Brown and his team is exemplary of the Station's mission to "*develop and deliver knowledge and innovative technology to improve the health and use of the nation's forests and rangelands.*"

The Boulder Laboratories of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), for "Advanced Distillation Curve Metrology," led by Principal Investigator Thomas J. Bruno.

From automated teller machines and atomic clocks to mammograms and semiconductors, innumerable products and services rely in some way on technology, measurement, and standards provided by the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#). NIST is a non-regulatory federal agency within the [U.S. Department of Commerce](#). NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance

economic security and improve our quality of life.

The DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory for "Large-volume Battery Calorimeter (LVBC)," led by Principal Investigator Matthew A. Keyser.

For more information about CO-LABS and to register for the awards event visit [www.co-labs.org](http://www.co-labs.org)

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