



GOVERNOR'S²⁰ AWARDS¹⁷ for High-Impact Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CO-LABS Announces *Chasing Ice* Photographer James Balog to Keynote
2017 Governor's Awards for High-Impact Research
Ninth Annual Event Honors Colorado's Top Scientists and Engineers
for Projects Having a Significant Impact on Society**

September 12, 2017: From the quantum realm of bioscience to the vanguard of atmospheric physics, from the technology advancing new possibilities in manufacturing to crucial new assessments of severe weather – CO-LABS invites fellow champions of science to join the premier scientific research recognition event in Colorado with over 200 researchers, entrepreneurs, business leaders and government officials as we celebrate the exceptional and groundbreaking work of scientists and engineers from Colorado's federally-funded research labs: the 2017 Governor's Awards for High Impact Research event on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

In addition - CO-LABS is pleased to announce James Balog will be the keynote speaker at the 2017 Governor's Awards for High Impact Research event, speaking on "The Value of Scientific Research in the Anthropocene." [Mr. Balog](#) is the world-renowned photographer featured in the Emmy Award-winning documentary *Chasing Ice* and founder of the Extreme Ice Survey. His insight into global environmental and societal trends, and the crucial role research plays in assessing complex factors shaping our world make him a compelling addition to this year's CO-LABS Awards ceremony.

"I've always believed that photography is a way to shape human perception," says Mr. Balog. "I look forward to joining the esteemed guests at the Governor's Awards to discuss and share imagery that highlights the power of art and science to not only reveal incredibly profound forces in nature but also to be a source of inspiration and solutions to our most prevalent and pressing societal challenges." (Read more about Mr. Balog below.)

"The projects in this year's CO-LABS High-Impact Awards spotlight what makes Colorado a leader in innovation It's terrific to see research advance its partnerships with the private sector. The range of

crucial and profound discoveries coming from these labs are a national asset,” said Governor John Hickenlooper. “I congratulate the scientific teams for their groundbreaking work and am excited to see the mark they will leave on our state and society as a whole.” Representing Governor Hickenlooper at this year’s event will be the state’s Chief Innovation Officer Erik Mitisek.

The winners will be formally recognized and celebrated Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 5:30pm-9:00pm at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard in Denver, Colorado. Tickets and registration details are available at www.co-labs.org.

This year's Winners are:

- **JILA** and Dr. Tom Perkins' New Twists in the Molecules of Life [read details](#)
- **NIST** - Seeing More with a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) [read details](#)
- **NOAA/CU-Boulder/UCAR** - GPS Reflections: Innovative Techniques [read details](#)
- **CIRA** - GOES-16 the New Generation of Geostationary Weather Satellites [read details](#)

Also for 2017 there are three Honorable Mentions:

- **USDA ARS** - Sugar Beet research with High Impact in Colorado, the USA and the World [read details](#)
- **CIRES** - Snow Research Improves Avalanche Safety, Water Resource Management [read details](#)
- **NOAA ESRL**- Science on a Sphere and SOS Explorer visualization systems [read details](#)

See the full research and project details for each at www.co-labs.org.

The Governor’s Awards for High-Impact Research began in 2009 recognizing several brilliant scientific research discoveries with real-world impacts from the ecosystem of federal research labs, universities and research institutions in Colorado.

“We are thrilled and truly honored to be recognized with the Governor’s Award for High Impact Research. The vision of Drs. Keller, Geiss and Rice, to envision new and innovative ways to use a scanning electron microscope, coupled with their hard work at developing and validating the techniques, led to this impactful achievement, which has already resulted in broad scientific accomplishment and commercial success, said Dr. Jim Feteke, Chief of the Applied Chemicals and Materials Division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). “Thanks so much to the CO-LABS Board of Directors and the Award Selection Committee for selecting our scientists for this prestigious honor.”

“Colorado has one of the highest per capita concentrations of federal science, research and engineering facilities in the nation, with renowned scientists whose research has global impact in a range of fields including agriculture, climate and weather, earth science, materials science, natural resource management, renewable energy, space physics and telecommunications,” said CO-LABS Executive Director Dan Powers. “This prestigious event provides a unique opportunity to connect with leading scientists, lab directors, business leaders and policymakers in an informal and celebratory setting, as we highlight the labs’ role in innovation and their significant contribution to the state economy.”

Started in 2009 by then-Governor Bill Ritter, this recognition effort starts with CO-LABS convening a special committee of academic researchers, technology transfer experts and science and engineering professionals to review nominations from the more than 30 federally-funded labs and research institutes in Colorado. Through a thoughtful and thorough process this group selects projects that have had a significant global, national or state impact resulting from a scientific breakthrough, change in public policy or development of a new technology.

About CO-LABS:

CO-LABS is a non-profit consortium of federal laboratories, research institutions, businesses and economic development organizations that provide financial and in-kind support for programs that promote the retention and expansion of Colorado scientific resources. Through events, economic analyses, strategic communications and networking activities we work to:

- PROMOTE Colorado as a global leader in research and technology
- EDUCATE the public about the labs' impact and importance of sustained funding for research
- CONNECT the labs, universities and businesses to facilitate partnerships and technology transfer

To learn more, visit www.CO-LABS.org or contact Executive Director Dan Powers at 720-389-0455 or dan@co-labs.org.

About James Balog:

James Balog - Founder & Director, Earth Vision Institute and Extreme Ice Survey

For 35 years, photographer James Balog ("BAY-log") has broken new conceptual and artistic ground on one of the most important issues of our era: human modification of our planet's natural systems. An avid mountaineer with a graduate degree in geography and geomorphology, James is equally at home on a Himalayan peak or a whitewater river, the African savannah or polar icecaps. To reveal the impact of climate change, James founded the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS), the most wide-ranging, ground-based, photographic study of glaciers ever conducted.



He and the EIS team are featured in the 2012 internationally acclaimed, award-winning documentary Chasing Ice and in the 2009 PBS/NOVA special Extreme Ice. Chasing Ice won an Emmy® Award in 2014 and was shortlisted for the 2013 Academy Awards. It has been screened at the White House, in the U.S. Congress, in the U.K. House of Commons, and at the United Nations. It has been the subject of features on the NBC Nightly News, ABC Nightline, The Late Show with David Letterman, PBS's Moyers & Company, and Real Time with Bill Maher.

One YouTube video clip from EIS and Chasing Ice has so far received more than 40 million views. The film has been seen by millions of people worldwide. Websites devoted to the film and EIS have received more than 500 million impressions. Balog has given one hundred multimedia presentations about the project at the TED conference and at major public institutions, corporations, and universities.

James has been honored with many awards, including, in recent years, the Duke University LEAF Award, the Sam Rose '58 and Julie Walters Prize at Dickinson College for Global Environmental Activism, an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the University of Alberta, the International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP) League Award, and the American Geophysical Union Presidential Citation for Science and Society. James received a Heinz Award in 2010. In 2009, he served as a U.S./NASA representative at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP- 15) in Copenhagen. In 2015, he made numerous presentations on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the United Nations Foundation in Paris at COP-21.

ICE: Portraits of Vanishing Glaciers, the latest of James' eight monographs, was published in 2012. Among his other titles are Tree: A New Vision of the American Forest (2004) and Survivors: A New Vision of Endangered Wildlife (1990), which were hailed as major conceptual breakthroughs in environmental photography. His work is housed in dozens of public and private art collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Corcoran Gallery, the Denver Art Museum, and the Gilman Paper Company. He has been extensively published in most of the world's major pictorial magazines, including National Geographic, Life, and Vanity Fair. National Geographic featured the Extreme Ice Survey in 2007, 2010, and 2013.

For more information, visit:

www.earthvisioninstitute.org

www.extremeicesurvey.org

www.gettingthepicture.info

www.jamesbalog.com