**Examples of Center Projects**

**Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate (SPARC)**
This NSF-funded project conducts research and assessments, outreach and education aimed at helping climate science policies better support climate-related decision making in the face of fundamental and often irreducible uncertainties.

**Presidential Science Advisor Series**
This year-long lecture series featuring current and former presidential science advisors, seeks to document how science is used and perhaps sometimes misused in policy and politics.

**Graduate Certificate Program in Science and Technology Policy**
This rigorous educational program prepares students pursuing graduate degrees for careers at the interface of science, technology, and decision making.

**Nanotechnology In Society**
The Center will contribute to this NSF-funded project located at Arizona State University by organizing a National Consensus Conference panel to identify values to guide policymakers and develop policy recommendations for the future development of nanotechnology, and by conducting exploratory research aimed at assessing the implementation of federal policies on the societal dimensions of nanotechnology at local university lab settings.

**The University of Colorado at Boulder**
Founded in 1876 in Boulder, CU is recognized as one of the outstanding public universities in the United States. The Boulder campus has five colleges and four schools, offering 3,400 courses in over 175 areas of study. CU-Boulder received more than $214 million in sponsored research awards in 1999-2000. Undergraduate students may work on research projects with faculty through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

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**The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences**
The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) was established in 1967 to provide a setting for collaborative research and teaching in the wide-ranging disciplines of the environmental sciences. Its mission is to act as a national resource for multidisciplinary research and education in the environmental sciences by providing scientific leadership in basic and applied research relevant to environmental and earth sciences issues, by contributing scientific expertise and resources to environmental science educational programs, and by providing support to facilitate collaborations among scientists at the University of Colorado, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other institutions. CIRES is sponsored jointly by the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Environmental Research Laboratories of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
The Center for Science and Technology Policy Research is within the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado. The Center focuses on research, outreach, and education, as a contribution to CIRES’ overarching theme of science in service to society. It strives to serve the broader University of Colorado community.

The recent decade has seen growing interest among scientists in investigating research problems that require the expertise of more than one traditional discipline. At the same time, decision makers in both public and private settings have asked the science and technology communities to provide knowledge that is more directly usable in their decision making. Science and technology policy research provides a mechanism to integrate these two closely related – but not identical – trends. By linking integrative science with the needs of decision makers, science and technology policy research plays a valuable role in helping the research community better focus its efforts on issues of importance to society, and in helping decision makers to effectively incorporate scientific and technological advances into their decision processes.

**Vision**

The Center serves as a resource for science and technology decision makers and those providing the education of future decision makers.

**Mission Statement**

The Center works to improve how science and technology policies address societal needs, including research, education and service.

Achieving this mission requires making progress toward the following four interrelated strategic intents:

**STRATEGIC INTENT 1**

Help guide the University of Colorado in educating the next generation of science and technology policy decision makers.

**Examples of objectives**

- Build a sustainable graduate science and technology policy education program at the University of Colorado.
- Serve as a national role model in innovative science and technology policy education.
- Enable the University of Colorado to serve as a leading voice in national and international science and technology policy issues.

**STRATEGIC INTENT 2**

Help make the nation’s science portfolios more responsive to societal needs. Example areas include climate and global change, disasters, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and renewable/sustainable energy.

**Examples of objectives**

- Identify criteria for reconciling supply of and demand for scientific information in decision making.
- Identify and present criteria for developing and evaluating broad portfolios of scientific and technological research.

**STRATEGIC INTENT 3**

Provide various means for people with differing perspectives to discuss research and practice related to science in its broader societal context.

**STRATEGIC INTENT 4**

Build a sustainable, diverse and productive institution at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

**Research**

The Center’s research is integrated with the ongoing activities of CIRES, its sponsors, the University, and the broader science and technology community.

Examples of our research activities can be found on the overleaf.

**Outreach**

The Center emphasizes outreach to the academic community and private and public decision makers using peer-reviewed literature, the Internet, talks and presentations by Center staff, a newsletter (Ogmius), periodic briefings, a popular science policy weblog (Prometheus), and extensive media coverage.

**Education**

In partnership with interdisciplinary programs and disciplinary departments in the social and physical sciences, law, humanities, engineering, and others, the Center has developed a pedagogical presence at both undergraduate and graduate levels. This includes overseeing a graduate certificate program in science and technology policy, focused seminars, and topical and cross-disciplinary courses.