

## About INSTAAR – media kit



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### Descriptions of INSTAAR

Journalists, producers, bloggers, and others – you are welcome to use these descriptions of INSTAAR in your articles and programs. Please contact us if you need more information at 303 492-7909 or [susan.ponsor@colorado.edu](mailto:susan.ponsor@colorado.edu).

#### *100 words*

Scientists at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), University of Colorado Boulder, conduct interdisciplinary research on the physical and biogeochemical processes that drive environmental change. From a historic focus on polar and alpine regions, where effects of global change are especially pronounced, research has broadened to include environmental challenges that span local, regional, and global scales. Topics range across Quaternary and modern environments, ecology, biogeochemistry, landscape evolution, hydrology, oceanography, and climate. INSTAAR research activities integrate field studies, laboratory experiments, sample analysis, and numerical and laboratory modeling. Research takes place across all seven continents and the world's oceans.

#### *50 words*

Scientists at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), part of the University of Colorado Boulder, conduct interdisciplinary research on the physical and biogeochemical processes that drive environmental change. INSTAAR leads in key measures of scientific impact, such as paper publication, citations, and research dollars.

#### *25 words*

The Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), part of the University of Colorado Boulder, conducts research on earth and environmental systems and global change.

## Speaker introductions

*100 words*

Dr. Alan Townsend is director of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, or INSTAAR, at CU Boulder. INSTAAR is the oldest Institute at CU, focusing on research, education and science leadership in the areas of climate, ecosystems, biogeochemistry, landscape evolution, oceanography, and water resources, in sites ranging from the alpine areas of the Rocky Mountains to the remote regions of the world.

As an ecosystem ecologist, Dr. Townsend studies how ecosystems work, how they are changing, and what those changes might mean for society. A particular focus has been nutrient cycling and biogeochemistry in tropical forests and agricultural systems.

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Dr. Townsend spent 17 years on the faculty at CU Boulder before becoming dean of the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment in 2014. He returned to CU Boulder early in 2017 as the associate vice chancellor for research, INSTAAR Fellow, and professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Prior to his time at Duke, Townsend served as director of the Division of Environmental Biology at the National Science Foundation and the lead of CU Boulder's efforts to secure the U.S. hub of Future Earth, now located in CU Boulder's Sustainability, Energy and Environment Community (SEEC). He also co-directed the national Aldo Leopold Leadership Program.

Dr. Townsend earned his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Stanford University. As an ecosystem ecologist, Dr. Townsend studies how ecosystems work, how they are changing, and what those changes might mean for society. A particular focus has been nutrient cycling and biogeochemistry in tropical forests and agricultural systems.