Monday, November 2, 2009

6.30 - 8.00 pm

Please meet in the SHEPC foyer at 6.00 pm for transportation to NCAR.

Reception and Dinner at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

We are privileged to have Patty Limerick join us as our dinner speaker. Limerick directs the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, where she is also a distinguished professor of history. Her remarks will be drawn from the exceptional chapter she wrote for the forthcoming WICHE book, *Higher Education in the West: Development, Direction, and Public Policy*, entitled “Forty Years in the Academic Saddle: The American West, Higher Education, and the Invitation to Innovation.” The commission is in for a uniquely wonderful evening. As you will note from her bio, Limerick’s scholarship has earned her numerous awards and distinctions, including the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship. But beyond her scholarship, she is also an exceptionally engaging and enjoyable presenter and discussant. (Not to worry: she will be much better than the alternative – Monday night football.)

Biographical Information on the Speaker

Patty Limerick is the faculty director and chair of the board of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, where she is also a professor of history. Limerick has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between academics and the general public and to demonstrating the benefits of applying historical perspective to contemporary dilemmas and conflicts. Limerick was born and raised in Banning, CA, and graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz; she received her Ph.D. in American studies from Yale University. She was an assistant professor of history at Harvard from 1980 to 1984, then moved to Boulder to join the History Department of the University of Colorado. In 1985 she published *Desert Passages*, followed in 1987 by her best-known work, *The Legacy of Conquest*, an overview and reinterpretation of Western American history that has stirred up a great deal of both academic and public debate. Limerick is also a prolific essayist, and many of her most notable articles, including “Dancing with Professors: The Trouble with Academic Prose,” were collected in 2000 under the title *Something in the Soil*. Limerick has received a number of awards and honors recognizing the impact of her scholarship and her commitment to teaching, including the MacArthur Fellowship and the Hazel Barnes Prize, the University of Colorado’s highest award for teaching and research. She has served as president of several professional organizations, advised documentary and film projects, and done two tours as a Pulitzer nonfiction jurist. She regularly engages the public on the op-ed pages of local and national newspapers and has also served as a guest columnist for the *New York Times*. In 1986 Limerick and CU Law Professor Charles Wilkinson founded the Center of the American West. The center has published a number of books, including the influential *Atlas of the New West* and a series of lively, balanced, and to-the-point reports on compelling Western issues, including *What Every Westerner Should*
Know About Energy and What Every Westerner Should Know About Energy Efficiency and Conservation. Limerick and center staff are currently working on several projects, including a book about the role of the Department of Interior in the West, based on the “Inside Interior” series of interviews hosted by the center; an illustrated history of the Denver Water Board; and a PBS series titled “Living with Energy.” Under her leadership the Center of the American West serves as a forum committed to the civil, respectful, problem-solving exploration of important, often contentious, public issues.