Monday, November 11, 2013

6:30 pm
St Julien Hotel
Xanadu II & III

WICHE 60th Anniversary Dinner and Program

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.)

**Speaker:**
Patty Limerick, faculty director and chair of the board, Center of the American West

**Biographical Information on the Speaker**

Patricia 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 in 1972. She received her Ph.D. in American studies from Yale University in 1980, and from 1980 to 1984 she was an assistant professor of history at Harvard. In 1984 Limerick moved to Boulder to join the History Department of the University of Colorado, where she was promoted to tenured associate professor in 1987 and to full professor in 1991. 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*. In 1986 Limerick and CU Law Professor Charles Wilkinson founded the Center of the American West, and since 1995 it has been her primary point of affiliation. During her tenure the center has published a number of books, including the influential *Atlas of the New West* (1997) and a series of lively, balanced, and to-the-point reports on compelling Western issues, including *What Every Westerner Should Know About Energy* (2003), *Cleaning Up Abandoned Hardrock Mines in the West* (2006), and *What Every Westerner Should Know About Energy Efficiency*.
and Conservation (2007). The center’s film, “The Lover’s Guide to the West,” debuted on Rocky Mountain PBS in 2010. 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 between 2004 and 2006, and an illustrated history of the Denver Water Board. 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. In an era of political polarization and contention, the center strives to bring out “the better angels of our nature” by appealing to our common loyalties and hopes as Westerners.