



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

September 13, 2023 | Speaker Biographies

JOHN TRACY | Director, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University

John Tracy serves as the director of the Colorado Water Center, joining the Center in July 2022 from Texas A&M where he served as director of the Texas Water Resources Institute. Tracy has spent most of his career at land-grant institutions, addressing water, land and environmental resources management issues, working with a diverse range of agencies and stakeholders. He has served in leadership positions at water institutes in Texas, Idaho, and Nevada, as well as on the boards of the American Water Resources Association and the National Institutes for Water Resources.

His approach to engagement starts with research questions and activities co-created with communities and agencies to understand concerns and knowledge gaps. In his work with students, he believes the most significant outcomes result when students are prepared to address the highest priorities that society is facing.

Tracy holds a Ph.D. in Engineering and MS in Civil Engineering, both from the Univ. of California at Davis, and a BS in Civil Engineering from CSU.

PATRICIA “PATTY” RETTIG | Archivist, Water Resources Archive, Colorado State University

Patty Rettig is the archivist for the Water Resources Archive at the Colorado State University Libraries. Rettig has built the archive to hold over 130 distinct collections documenting Colorado’s water heritage by engaging with the water community across the state. This involves working with people throughout the university as well as with state and federal agencies, ditch companies, businesses, and individuals.

She earned her Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland, College Park, and her B.A. in English from Wittenberg University. She has been with the Water Resources Archive since its beginning in 2001. She received the Friends of the South Platte Award in 2014.

MARTÍN CARCASSON | Professor, Colorado State University

Martín Carcasson, Ph.D., is a professor in the Communication Studies department of Colorado State University, the founder and director of the CSU Center for Public Deliberation (CPD), and a faculty member for CSU’s Masters in Public Policy and Administration program. His research focuses on helping local communities address “wicked problems” more productively through improved public communication, community problem solving, and collaborative decision-making. The CPD is a practical, applied extension of his work, and functions as an impartial resource dedicated to enhancing local democracy in Northern Colorado. Dr. Carcasson and the CPD staff train students to serve as impartial facilitators, who then work with local governments, school boards, and community organizations to design, facilitate, and report on

innovative projects and events on key community issues. In the fall of 2021, he helped launch the Northern Colorado Deliberative Journalism Project, and continues to serve on the core team for the project.