Vision of Contributing to the Colorado School of Mines: Sharing in Excellence and Innovation

Dr. Silliman has pursued a diverse career in higher education. Within this presentation, he will provide overview of his efforts in developing innovative educational models. These models range from more traditional classroom/lab settings, to multidisciplinary work in Benin (West Africa) with interdisciplinary and international (US and Benin) student / faculty teams. He will also summarize his research experiences ranging from numerical / probabilistic efforts, to sophisticated laboratory experiments, to field studies in multiple countries. Finally, he will review his experiences in administrative positions at both the University of Notre Dame and Gonzaga University, including resource development, efforts to increase student retention (particularly among women), collaborative efforts across multiple disciplines, and working to encourage and support excellence among faculty, staff, and students. From these reflections on his interests and prior experiences, Dr. Silliman will explore how his prior experience has the potential to contribute to CSM’s ongoing exploration of innovation and excellence. Among the areas of contribution would be support of ongoing excellence within the Earth Resources and Environmental Programs, exploration of existing and new opportunities for continuing-education offerings across the CSM programs, pursuit of existing and new interdisciplinary, international opportunities, and efforts to work with CSM alumni and other external constituents to further build the financial resources and reputation of the School.

Brief Speaker Biography: Stephen Silliman is currently serving as a National Academies Jefferson Science Fellow in the Center for Development Research within the Global Development Lab of the US Agency for International Development in Washington, DC. He received his bachelors in Civil Engineering from Princeton University in 1979, then earned his Masters and Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources at the University of Arizona. He worked for the USGS in Reston, Virginia between his Masters and PhD. From 1986 – 2012, he served in multiple faculty and administrative positions at the University of Notre Dame, including Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in the College of Engineering. During his time at Notre Dame, he developed an active, multifaceted research program involving fluid flow, as well as chemical and microbial transport processes in heterogeneous groundwater and shallow surface-water systems. He also developed a number of educational opportunities for his undergraduate and graduate students, ranging from traditional classroom / laboratory offerings to research / service experiences in multiple developing countries (most notably in Benin). Most recently, he has served as Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Gonzaga University.