



## **CIRES support for IPY education, outreach and communication coordination and community-building**

**M. McCaffrey** (1), J. Beitler (2), S. Buhr (1), S. Lynds (1)

(1) CIRES Outreach, University of Colorado- Boulder, USA, (2) National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado- Boulder, USA

Boulder, Colorado is a global center for polar-related research, data management and logistical support, and also home of the Cooperative Institute for Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado and its National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). The CIRES Outreach team has provided IPY-related education and outreach coordination and community-building through a series of workshops and initiatives. These efforts include conducting an initial survey of K12 science teachers about polar science and misconceptions, and holding the **Poles Together: Coordinating IPY Outreach and Education Workshop** sponsored by CIRES and NOAA in July, 2005. This workshop was attended by over 100 participants from around the world from diverse backgrounds and organizations, and built on the first IPY Education workshop, **Bridging the Poles**, held in June, 2004. At the request of the National Science Foundation and NOAA's Office of Education and Sustainable Development, CIRES will co-host a virtual workshop, the **Integrated Communication Effort (ICE) Strategic Planning Workshop**, with the College of Exploration in the Spring of 2006. A primary outcome of this workshop is the identification of essential polar literacy themes and strategies. CIRES has representation on both the data and education IPY subcommittees, and will continue to work with international collaborators to support the integration of IPY-related research, data and education. CIRES Outreach plans to continue fostering partnerships and supporting the vision and goals of the International Polar Year 2007-2008 and related efforts by: building on expertise in the areas of geoscience education evaluation; facilitating inquiry training for scientists and teachers relative to polar science; leveraging expertise in the development of reviewed and annotated digital library collections; and seeking synergistic partnerships with local experts and international collaborators.