Dr. Burke is an ecosystem ecologist whose research has focused on carbon and nitrogen cycling in dryland ecosystems. She received her B.S. in Biology from Middlebury College and her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Wyoming, and has taught at Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming. Her work with graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and colleagues has addressed how drylands are influenced by land use management, climatic variability, and regional variability. She teaches in the fields of environmental science, ecosystem ecology, and biogeochemistry.

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Environmental issues are tremendously complex, embracing science, technology, economics, social justice, and policy aspects. The challenge for universities is that our structures can provide barriers to interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching, and inertia in responding to emerging needs. How can we develop nimble approaches to our scholarship, teaching, and outreach?

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