Dr. Richard Canfield is a Research Professor (retired December 2009) in the Physics Department of Montana State University, where he carried out solar physics research with graduate and undergraduate students and fellow research scientists. He was the principal investigator for several instrument development projects at the Mees Solar Observatory of the University of Hawaii, including the Mees CCD Imaging Spectrograph (MCCD) and the Imaging Vector Magnetograph (IVM). He was a Co-Investigator on the ISAS/NASA Yohkoh mission and is presently a Co-Investigator on the NASA High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (HESSI) mission.

Dr. Canfield contributed to the theory of radiation from astrophysical atmospheres and applied it to the Sun, stars, and active galactic nuclei. His work on solar flares led to improved understanding of the origins and dynamics of the hot flare plasma. His work on twist in active region magnetic fields led to better understanding of the role of convection and solar rotation in the generation of solar activity. His recent work on coronal structure and topology improved our understanding of the solar genesis of space weather.

Dr. Canfield graduated from the University of Michigan (B.S. 1959, M.S. 1961) in Astronomy and the University of Colorado (Ph.D. 1968) in Astrogeophysics. He was author or co-author over 130 papers and books in the refereed scientific literature and over 50 invited presentations. He taught introductory courses in astronomy for nonscience majors and theoretical stellar atmospheres and radiative transfer for graduate students. He mentored 23 Ph.D. and Postgraduate Students now working in universities, industrial laboratories, and federally funded research and development centers throughout the United States. He served on numerous scientific advisory committees for NASA, NSF, National Solar Observatory, National Center for Atmospheric Research, National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences, scientific publishers, and international scientific meetings.

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