Jack Burns
Biographical Sketch

Jack Burns is a Professor and an active NSF and NASA-funded researcher in the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Burns received his B.S. degree, magna cum laude, in Astrophysics from the University of Massachusetts in 1974. He was awarded an M.S. degree in 1976 and a Ph.D. in Astronomy in 1978 from Indiana University.

Burns has held a variety of leadership positions in higher education. From January, 2002 through 2005 he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs & Research for the University of Colorado (CU) System. Burns coordinated the development and review of undergraduate and graduate/professional programs for the four campuses of the CU System. He provided leadership in the University's efforts to promote teaching, research, creative work, technology transfer, and public service for CU and to champion ethnic and cultural diversity. Burns coordinated strategic planning committees as part of the CU Vision 2010 initiative and founded a "Barrier Busters" task force to eliminate administrative impediments. During Burns' tenure, CU rose from 50th to 9th in the nation in technology licensing revenue, a performance contract between the university and state government was negotiated, a pre-Collegiate program was enhanced to the enroll first generation students in college, a new position of Assistant Vice President for Diversity and a System-wide Diversity Advisory Committee were created, a System-wide Committee for the Advancement of Learning Innovations and a Learning Assessment Project were established, and new partnerships with federal agencies and national laboratories were negotiated.

Burns was Vice Provost for Research at the University of Missouri - Columbia from 1997 through 2001. He was responsible for leadership and administration of the research and technology development mission of the university's 12 colleges and 7 interdisciplinary research centers. During Burns' tenure, MU's new federal research awards increased by a nation-leading 132 percent, royalties and patent applications doubled, Congressional appropriations to MU resulted in over $150 million in new funding, $60 million in public and private funding was secured for a new Life Sciences Center, nearly 100 new faculty were added in selected disciplines from a "mission enhancement" program funded by the state legislature, and a grant-writers network was initiated.

Earlier in his career, Burns spent nearly twenty years in New Mexico. He was Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University (NMSU). He helped to oversee a budget of over $65 million for 23 academic departments and 350 faculty. Burns was Department Head and Professor in the Department of Astronomy at New Mexico State University from 1989 until 1996 when department funding increased by a factor of 45, construction of the $50 million Apache Point Observatory was completed, and the Department raised $1 million for an endowed chair. The National Research Council ranked the NMSU Astronomy Department as the second most improved in the nation in 1994. During his tenure at the University of New Mexico from 1980 to 1989, Burns served as the Director of the Institute for Astrophysics and was a Presidential Fellow. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory from 1978 to 1980.

Burns has over 300 publications in refereed journals, books, and in conference proceedings and abstracts (as listed in NASA's Astrophysics Data System). His research has been featured in articles and on the covers of *Scientific American*, *Nature*, and *Science*. His teaching and research focus on extragalactic astronomy and cosmology, supercomputer numerical simulations, and public policy issues in higher education and science. He has obtained over $4 million in grants. In 1998, Burns was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society, an honor given to only 0.5 percent of the nation's physicists yearly.

Burns exerted leadership on the national and state levels as Chair of the National Forum for System Chief Academic Officers, as a member of the Executive Committees for the NASULGC Council on Academic Affairs and the Council on Research Policy & Graduate Education, as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Women and Information Technology, as Chair of the American Astronomical Society's Committee on Astronomy & Public Policy, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the University Licensing Equity Holding Inc., as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Science Forum, and as Chair of the Southwest Regional Space Task Force.