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David L. Carlson is the Founder and Convener of the Ethics and Ecological Economics Forum¹ at the Iliff School of Theology. The Forum meets monthly during the academic year for presentations and discussion on public policy issues that involve ethics, economics, and the environment. Recent examples include: climate change, health equity, the Green New Deal, and regenerative agriculture and carbon farming.

Dr. Carlson founded the EEE Forum shortly after he completed the Joint Ph.D. Program in Religious and Theological Studies at Iliff and the University of Denver (DU) in 2013. His dissertation examined relationships among religion, science, and theology in dialogue with the thinking of German philosopher, Martin Heidegger. Since then he has taught graduate-level courses in financial management at Iliff (2014-15) and ecological economics and human well-being at DU (2016) as an adjunct faculty member.

David is also a Team Co-leader for “Beyond GDP: Measuring Human and Ecological Wellbeing (HEW) in Colorado” – a project of the DU Grand Challenges Initiative. In collaboration with NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders in Colorado, this project seeks to develop a consensus set of measurable indicators of personal, community, and environmental wellbeing (such as access to health care and quality education, personal safety, and civic participation) that go beyond market economics-based measures, such as gross domestic product and stock market valuations. The Project Team intends to produce a HEW Report and hold a HEW Forum on or before Earth Day 2020.

Before returning to academia in 2005, Dr. Carlson served as a natural resources policy analyst for the Colorado Department of Agriculture (1976-2003). During that time, he directed major studies and public policy education activities in agricultural land conversion and growth, the future of the Ogallala Aquifer, irrigation water demand, renewable energy, and wildlife habitat protection. He also founded and led the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program (1983-89)—an intensive, two-year program, including national and international travel, for emerging leaders 25-40 years of age. Prior to joining the Department of Agriculture, he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1971 and taught undergraduate mathematics at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Colorado State University in Pueblo.

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¹ For information about past and present EEE Forums, including slide presentations and articles, visit the Forum webpage at: <https://eeeforum.org/>