

**Regents' Researcher Award  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

Professor Lawrence R. Walker is an internationally acclaimed plant ecologist with particular expertise in how plants and soils respond to both natural and man-made disturbances through the process of ecological succession. He uses long-term field experiments to study ecosystem recovery following disturbances such as hurricanes, volcanoes, glaciers, landslides, and mine tailings in places such as the Caribbean, Hawaii, Alaska, New Zealand, China, and Nevada. The conceptual advances that he synthesizes from these and other studies have important basic and applied implications as global climate change and human population pressure increasingly stress our planet's ecosystems. Professor Walker's research is therefore vital to understand how to modify the responses of disrupted ecosystems through ecological restoration. Restoration is then used to benefit society's interests in hazard management, clean water, soil conservation, and other services that intact ecosystems provide. Professor Walker has won numerous awards, including a Fulbright and two UNLV Barrick Scholar awards and has served as the endowed Wilder Chair at the University of Hawaii. He has over 130 publications, including 8 highly regarded books that help establish the conceptual and theoretical foundations for ecological succession and restoration.