**Dr. Walter G. Copan** is Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer at the Colorado School of Mines, a leading U.S. research university, and Senior Advisor and co-founder of the Renewing American Innovation Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. He previously served as Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and 16th Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and was the U.S. principal presidential advisor on standards policy and technology. Dr. Copan is a distinguished leader with wide-ranging experience spanning large company, entrepreneurial tech startup, U.S. government, non-profit, academia and other public sector settings. He earned undergraduate degrees and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Case Western Reserve University. Among the honors he has received, he is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and was named 2020 Laboratory Director of the Year by the Federal Laboratory Consortium.