Society Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1995, and the Associated Students of UAF's Award for Outstanding Faculty Member in 1996.

Foremost an eminent scholar of Alaska and polar history, Cole's enviable publishing record includes five books on Alaska history, most recently *Fighting for the Forty-Ninth Star: C.W. Snedden and the Crusade for Alaska Statehood* (Fairbanks: UA Foundation, 2010), a treatment of the state, national, and international