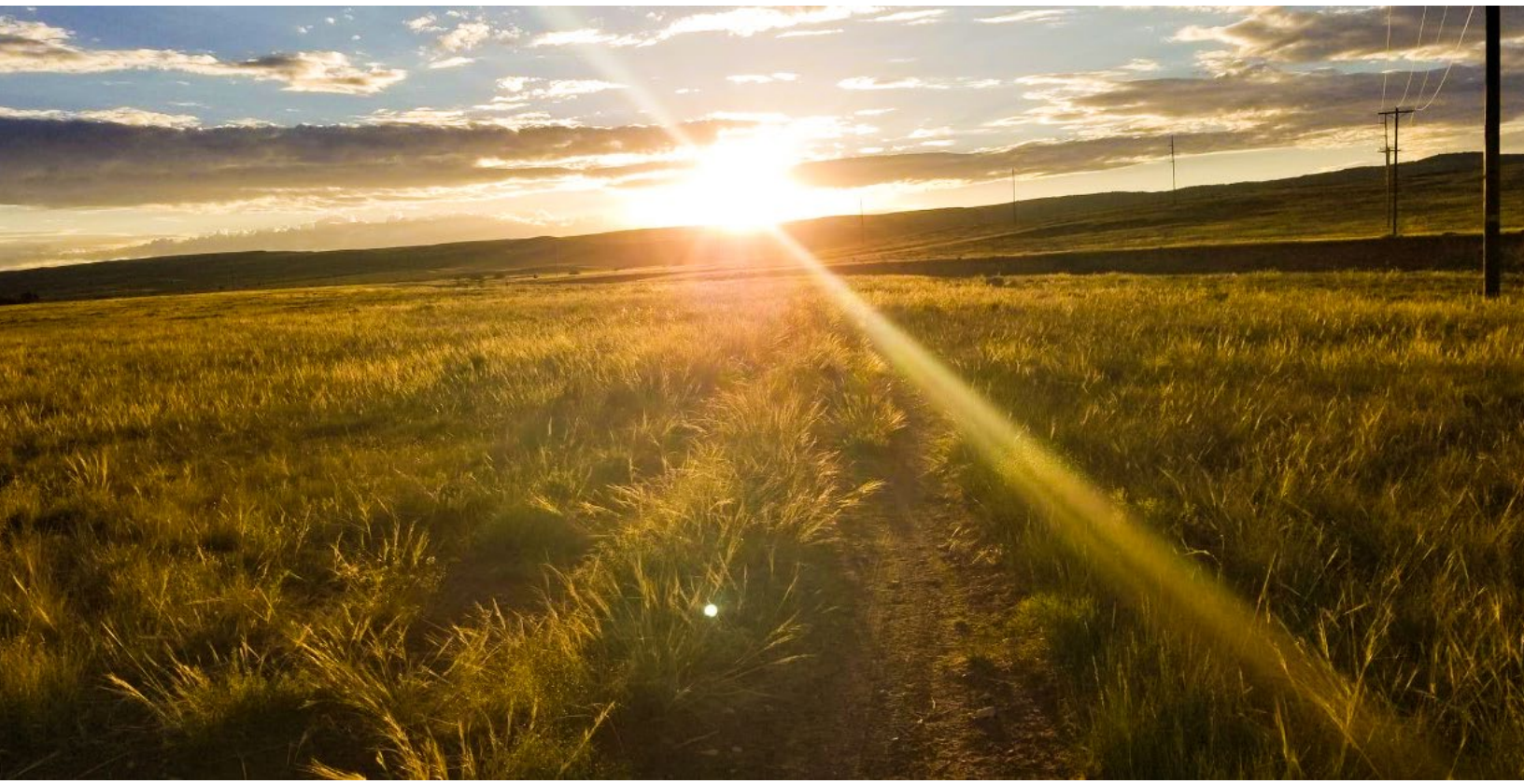
WYOMING'S *Energy Future*

Sponsored by the UW School of Energy Resources and the Wold Foundation

October 22, 2026
Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center



WOLD FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING | School of Energy Resources

Agenda

10:00 AM — **Welcome Remarks**

Dr. John Kaszuba
John and Jane Wold Centennial Chair in Energy &
School of Energy Resources Professor of Geology & Geophysics, University of Wyoming

Shane Reeves
President, University of Wyoming

Pete Obermueller
Executive Director, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Court Wold
Partner, Wold Companies

10:15 - 10:45 AM — **Presentation: Critical Mineral Workforce Development**

Erin Phillips
Director of Cross Cutting Programs,
University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

10:45 - 11:45 AM — **Panel 1: Critical Minerals in Oil & Gas**

Moderator:
Autumn Eakin
Assistant Director, Center for Economic Geology Research,
University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Panelists:
Jonathan Brant
Professor of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management, University of Wyoming;
Director, Center for Produced Water Management

Brian Annes
Counsel, Davis | Graham

Ariel S. Martin
University of Wyoming Postdoctoral Researcher, Kaszuba Research Group

11:45 AM - 12:20 PM — **Networking and Lunch Break**

12:20 - 12:26 PM — **School of Energy Resources 20th Anniversary Video**

12:26 - 12:35 PM — **Special remarks from Curt Coccodrilli, Acting Assistant Secretary for Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy, Department of Energy**

12:35 - 12:45 PM — **Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Peter Wold
Senior Partner, Wold Companies
Board of Directors, Wold Foundation

12:45 - 1:15 PM — **Keynote Address**

Governor Mark Gordon

1:15 - 2:15 PM **Panel 2: Coal as an Unconventional Critical Material Resource**

Moderator:
Tyler Brown
Program Manager, Minerals, Center for Economic Geology Research, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Panelists:
Davin Bagdonas
Principal Research Professional, Minerals, Center for Economic Geology Research, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Scott Montross
Acting Technology Director, Critical Minerals and Advanced Alloys Center of Excellence, National Energy Technology Laboratory

Dan Connell
President of CONSOL Innovations at CORE Natural Resources

Hoon Choi
SER Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, University of Wyoming

2:15 - 2:45 PM **Presentation: Uranium and Nuclear Energy**

Ryan S. Schierman, M.Sc.
Vice President Regulatory Affairs, UR Energy

2:45 - 3:10 PM **Afternoon Coffee Break**

3:10 - 4:10 PM **Panel 3: Critical Mineral Usage in Modern Society**

Moderator:
Brian Leonard
Associate Professor and Department Head of Inorganic and Materials Chemistry, University of Wyoming

Panelists:
Jinke Tang
Professor of Physics, University of Wyoming; Director, UW Science Institute

Paul Bonifas
Director, Business Development at Rare Element Resources

Justin Loyka
Wyoming Energy Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

Tisi Barlock
Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chain Specialist, Argonne National Laboratory

4:10 - 4:40 PM **Presentation: Mining and Traditional Critical Minerals, Halleck Creek Project**

Nick Lissolo
Chief Commercial Officer at American Rare Earth, Inc.

4:40 - 5:00 PM **Student Poster Session Winners and Closing Remarks**

About the Wold Foundation



Created in 1985 by John and Jane Wold and the Wold family, the Wold Foundation exists to assist, encourage and promote charitable, scientific, literary and educational endeavors. The Foundation supports institutions and programs that promote traditional values and free enterprise and gives a preference to projects benefiting Wyoming citizens and Wyoming youth. The Foundation supports these endeavors through grants for research or publication through cooperation with agencies and institutions already in existence, or by any other means which may seem appropriate to the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

About the School of Energy Resources



The School of Energy Resources (SER) at the University of Wyoming collaborates with stakeholders at the state, national, and international levels to advance energy technologies and policies to grow and support Wyoming's robust energy sector. SER's mission is energy-driven economic development for the state of Wyoming. With that mission in mind, the focus of the school is to provide a mechanism to achieve excellence in energy academics, outreach and research.

Special Thanks to Glenda Catchpole, Executive Director of the Wold Foundation, Peighton Hayes, SER Special Events Coordinator, and Christine Reed, Director of Outreach at the School of Energy Resources for their help in planning the event!

Master of Ceremonies



John Kaszuba, John and Jane Wold Centennial Chair in Energy and School of Energy Resources Professor of Geology and Geophysics

John Kaszuba is the John and Jane Wold Centennial Chair in Energy and a School of Energy Resources Professor of Geology and Geophysics. A prominent expert in hydrothermal and multiphase fluid-rock reactions, Kaszuba has forged a path of excellence throughout his career, both in his research and in his dedication to student instruction. Before joining UW in 2008, Kaszuba earned his B.S. in geology from Beloit College (1982), followed by his M.S. from Virginia Tech University (1986). He later earned his Ph.D. in geochemistry from Colorado School of Mines (1997) before working as a research scientist in the Los Alamos National Laboratory for over a decade.

Since joining UW, his research has focused largely on Wyoming energy production, with extensive industry collaboration, and he has garnered an impeccable reputation as an esteemed professor. He was awarded tenure in 2012 and promoted to full professor in 2019.

During his tenure at UW, Kaszuba has continued to teach a full course load, all with an emphasis on energy education. Additionally, he supervises and leads a research group focused on a wide variety of projects regarding the geochemistry of fluid-rock interactions in the shallow to middle crust. Over 25 students have made contributions through their research in the energy sector and thrived under his tutelage and mentorship.