

Board of Trustees Update: March 2025

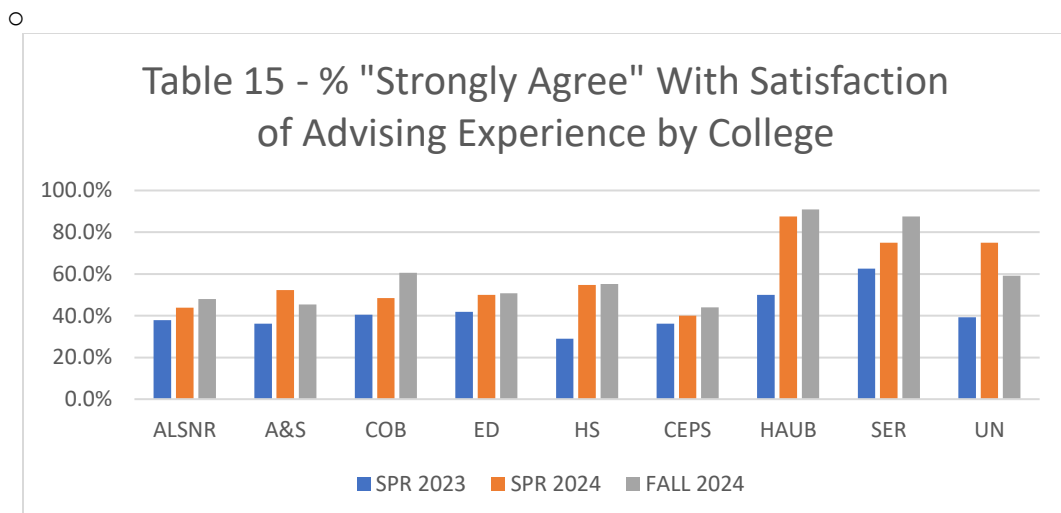
SER's Mission: To advance energy-driven economic development for Wyoming

SER Administration:

- Due to the failure of the state's supplemental budget, SER's request of \$2.09 million to address inflation associated with the Campbell County coal pyrolysis demonstration project remains unfunded. SER will work under the direction of the Energy Resources Council (ERC) to explore options and determine next steps. Potential delays may occur in the procurement and construction contract amendment with Wood Group, originally scheduled to come before the BOT in May, due to these funding uncertainties.
- SER has made significant progress in addressing HR-related challenges, particularly in hiring and classification compensation, through direct collaboration with the Associate Vice President (AVP) Link. This has enabled progress toward the filling of two previously vacant positions.

SER Academics:

- The undergraduate and graduate Nuclear Energy Science certificate programs, developed in partnership with the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS) and Academic Affairs (AA), are pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Financial Aid.
- Kendall Klos has been recognized as the University of Wyoming Outstanding Graduate and is a finalist for the national AAPL Outstanding Graduate of the Year award.
- The annual advising survey has traditionally been sent out to undergraduate students at the end of the spring semester. Starting Fall 2024 the survey will be sent each semester. The Navigate360 survey tool has been utilized to survey students since the Spring of 2023.
 - Table 15 shows advising satisfaction by College/Advising center has been improving but is inconsistent across the various colleges. It is important to note that for some of the colleges the small sample size has impacted on the percentages. For example, the sample size for the Fall 2024 survey in A&S is 141, whereas it is 11 for Haub and 8 for School of Energy.



SER Outreach:

- SER Outreach is collaborating with SER Academics to organize the Rocky Mountain Professional
- SER Outreach is partnering with the STEM Initiative's STEM Roadshow to deliver energy-focused programming to K-12 classrooms throughout Wyoming.
- SER Outreach is actively involved in the institution-wide website migration to update the SER website.

SER Research:

- **Federal Funding Impacts.** The temporary pause in federal funding reviews and contract awards by federal agencies, including the Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, is affecting approximately \$40 million in SER-administered grants.
- **Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR).** CEGR is conducting field operations, drilling the first of three deep wells north of Granger, Wyoming, to characterize geological CO₂ storage potential in partnership with Frontier Carbon Solutions.
- **Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC):**
 - The pyrolysis field demonstration plant construction at the Wyoming Innovation Center will resume upon favorable weather conditions, with a targeted startup date of December 2025, pending successful funding (see 'Administration' section).
 - The solvent extraction pilot plant is undergoing shakedown testing in the Lutz building, with engineering data informing the design of the field demonstration plant in Gillette.
 - The coal char soil amendment team is collaborating with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Abandoned Mine Land Division on uranium mine reclamation projects and with coal mines in the PRB on reclamation tests.
- **Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA):**
 - CERPA, in collaboration with the UW Center for Business and Economic Analysis, has published white papers on Wyoming's nuclear supply chain opportunities and challenges, specifically focusing on heat applications and spent fuel.
 - CERPA has also published a white paper regarding Certified Natural Gas and maintaining and expanding Wyoming export markets.
- **Energy Engagement, Leadership and Careers (Energy ELC):**
 - Energy ELC is developing a Wyoming energy workforce partner map.
 - The 2025 Critical Minerals Leadership Academy pilot program will provide graduate students and early career professionals with immersive learning experiences in conventional and unconventional critical mineral research and development.
 - Partnering with the UW Science Initiative to develop K-12 teaching modules on uranium.

Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI):

- **Mission.** EORI's mission is to provide technical collaboration with the oil and gas industry to maximize oil recovery and enhance state revenue.
- **Personnel.** The hiring process for a Senior Petroleum Engineer is in its final stages, with an anticipated start date in April/May.
- **Technical Projects.** EORI is actively engaged in over 12 collaborative industry projects, including CO₂-EOR, natural gas liquids, waterflood development, and 3D seismic projects.
- **EOR Insights.** EORI will host the 2nd Quarter EOR Insights in June to present the updated Wyoming Reservoir Interactive Tool (WYRIT).