

Board of Trustees Update: July 2026

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

SER Administration:

- Acting Executive Director Scott Quillinan joined Governor Gordon's trade mission to Taiwan and Japan to strengthen international energy partnerships and promote Wyoming's energy and research capabilities.
- During the mission, three Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed with Taiwanese universities and research organizations to advance collaboration in carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) and small modular reactor technologies.
- The State of Wyoming also renewed its longstanding MoU with the Japan Carbon Frontier Organization (JCOAL), to advance clean coal and carbon management research.

SER Academics:

- We maintain a secondary accreditation through the American Association of Professional Landmen for our PLM concentration in our ERMD BS degree. We are set for a site-visit for a five year re-review this fall.
 - The PLM Director and a student representative will attend the AAPL Annual Meeting June 24–26. Participation helps maintain the program's strong connection to industry and supports continued AAPL accreditation.
 - The PLM Director will also attend the Land School for Teachers (LST) meeting in Dallas July 22–25 to stay current on industry trends and best practices that benefit the PLM program.
- SER Faculty Dario Grana, SER Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Wyoming Excellence Chair Nielson Faculty Fellow Professor, was awarded the Society of Exploration Geophysicists Virgil Kauffman Gold Medal. This is bestowed to a person who has made an outstanding contributing to the advancement of the science of geophysical exploration.

SER Outreach:

- The Outreach team has begun development of the FY26 Annual Report, which highlights SER's impact, accomplishments, and return on investment.
- Outreach is working on the logistical planning for the Critical Mineral Leadership Academy, an important initiative focused on developing future leaders in the critical minerals sector.

SER Research: SER's research program supports a broad portfolio of Wyoming-focused initiatives designed to generate long-term state revenue, strengthen industry partnerships, and train students with expertise critical to Wyoming's energy future. The program engages faculty, staff, and students across the university and within SER's Centers of Excellence.

Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)

- The Department of Energy has begun releasing awarded CEGR grants that were paused during a department-wide program review. This is impactful news, as many of these projects are multimillion-dollar, multi-year grants that will provide stable funding for the Center, as well as supporting our energy and mining industry partners and on-campus collaborators.

Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC)

- **Coal Refinery Demonstration:**
 - Significant progress continues on the Coal Refinery Demonstration located in Gillette
 - The pyrolyzer was successfully installed in late April, and electrical construction is currently underway.
 - Commissioning is scheduled to begin in August 2026, with startup anticipated in September.
 - Once operational, the facility will demonstrate coal-to-product technologies at a scale that supports future commercialization opportunities.
- **REE & Critical Minerals Initiative:**
 - CCCC continues to partner with industry to advance development of a pilot-scale REE/CM recovery facility.
 - This effort is focused on creating new value streams from Wyoming resources while supporting domestic supply chain development for critical materials.
- **Graphite from coal:**
 - CCCC continues to evaluate opportunities to use Green River Basin coal as a feedstock for synthetic graphite production.
 - Supported by funding from the Kemmerer Mine, the project is assessing the technical and commercial potential of producing a high-value carbon product.

Energy Engagement Leadership and Careers Program (Energy ELC):

- The Energy ELC, in collaboration with SER Academics and the Jurisprudence of Underground Law & Energy (JOULE) Group, led a study abroad course to Norway to examine parallels between energy and minerals sectors in Norway and Wyoming. Twelve UW students completed the two-week course, which included visits with Norwegian energy industry representatives, government agencies, and research and development institutions.

Hydrogen Energy Research Center (H2ERC)

- **Publications:** Gisella Mena's HERC-supported work was published in Energy Conversion and Management: Unlocking Wyoming's coal resources for low-carbon hydrogen production. The study shows that supercritical water gasification of Wyoming coal with carbon capture can produce low-carbon hydrogen at roughly \$2.6–2.9/kg while meeting the federal clean-hydrogen carbon threshold, with the Powder River and Green River basins as the strongest candidate sites.
- **Publications:** Dr. Charlie Zhang's group has published two papers as a result of the Hydrogen RFP. One in the Journal of Chemical and Process Plant Safety, Elsevier, titled Quantifying reliability and uncertainty in hydrogen infrastructure through integrated incident analysis. The other one is in the Journal of Legal Affairs and Dispute Resolution in Engineering and

Construction, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), titled Legal Risk Mitigation in Hydrogen Pipeline Transport Through Corrective Action Order Analysis.

3D Visualization Center (3DVIZ)

- ***Greenhouse Virtual Reality Project:*** Development is now complete on this WIP-funded VR project, showcasing the controlled agriculture capabilities of the greenhouse atop the Science Initiative building. This program will be distributed to all the community colleges involved in the statewide VR program.
- ***Hyperspectral Program:*** The laboratory rack and conveyor belt have arrived, allowing core and hand sample scanning in the newly constructed darkroom. One of two tripods has also arrived, used to scan vertical exposures in the field.
- ***Chemistry Education in Augmented Reality:*** The ongoing work on this project has yielded a published paper in the Journal of Chemometrics, with two further papers currently seeking publication.