

# First, a bit of my background...

- Colorado Native
- First Generation College Grad
- At home in the Mountains



# Academic Background

- BS Physics, KU
- BS Engineering Physics, KU
  - Chemical Engineering
- PhD Geophysics, Rice
- Research Area
  - Wavefield Imaging
- Work at the boundaries
  - Hydrology, Glaciology, Archaeology, Hydrocarbon Exploration, Ecology, Geothermal, Environmental Engineering



*Alaskan Arctic: Hydrology and Ecology*



*Bénin, West Africa: Groundwater modeling and management*



*DOE Hanford Site: Environmental Engineering*

# Leadership Experience



The screenshot shows the Sinopec website's news center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, News Center, Business Center, Products & Services, Environment & Society, Career Center, CNPC Worldwide, and Exchange Center. Below this is a banner with the text: "深入学习贯彻习近平总书记在黑龙江代表团重要讲话精神 奋力谱写改革 创新 稳健 发展新篇章". The main content area is titled "新闻中心" (News Center) and features a list of news items with dates. A prominent photo shows a group of men in suits sitting around a long conference table, with the caption "汪东进会见国际勘探地球物理学家学会主席". Below the news list, there is a "传媒之声" (Media Voice) section with links to various news outlets like [济南日报], [大众网], [深圳商报], [克拉玛依], [新华网], and [人民网]. At the bottom, there are links for "出版物" (Publications), "报告 报刊" (Reports, Newspapers), "诚信合规手册" (Integrity and Compliance Handbook), and "热门关键字" (Hot Keywords).

- Led numerous research teams around the globe
- CGISS Director
- SEG NSGS President
- SEG President
- Mines Geophysics Department Head
- Mines Dean of Earth Resource and Environmental Programs
- Mines Vice President of Global Initiatives

# International Experience

- Ran research projects in
  - Norwegian Arctic, Scotland, Italy, China, West Africa
- Managed business operations in
  - Beijing and Dubai
- Negotiated and cultivated business partnerships in
  - Asia, Europe, Middle East, South America
- Worked with government and academic partners in
  - Asia, Middle East, Europe, South America
- Over 100 invited presentations, speeches, and shortcourses in more than 40 countries



April, 2005: -40 on the Arctic Ocean

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# Program Structure & Schedule

## 1) Kickoff Session (In Person) - May 13, 2026

### **Exploration & Workforce Development Session** (1 day, in-person)

A high-touch kickoff to align on program goals, connect the learning to workforce development needs, and launch the tailings-focused content with shared context and discussion.

Real-time translation (English → Spanish) services will be provided.

### **Facilitators**

- John Bradford, Vice President, Global Initiatives and Business Development
- Heather Lammers, Associate Department Head & Teaching Assistant Professor (virtual)

## 2) Online Course Series (Self-Paced) - May to July 2026

Six short courses delivered online and released in sequence to build understanding step-by-step.

### Translation Approach (English → Spanish)

- Google Translate will be used to translate course content.
- Mines ProEd will translate course images/visuals that cannot be translated using Google Translate.

### Course Release Dates

- May 18, 2026: Course 1 – *Introduction to Tailings*
- June 1, 2026: Course 2 – *Tailings: Technology and Site Selection*
- June 15, 2026: Course 3 – *Closure and Reclamation for Tailings Projects*
- June 29, 2026: Course 4 – *Tailings Instrumentation and Monitoring*
- July 6, 2026: Course 5 – *Risk Assessment and Mitigation for Tailings Management*
- July 20, 2026: Course 6 – *Emergency Response and Preparedness for Tailings*

### Instructor

- Heather Lammers, Associate Department Head & Teaching Assistant Professor

### 3) Wrap-Up Workshop (In Person) - August 12–19, 2026

2 days, in-person.

A capstone experience focused on pulling key concepts together, sharing insights, and translating learning into next steps for improved tailings practices.

Real-time translation (English → Spanish) services will be provided.

#### **Instructor**

- Heather Lammers, Associate Department Head & Teaching Assistant Professor
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### Completion Recognition

Participants who complete the hybrid programming to Mines' satisfaction will receive a Mines Marker of Completion.

# Colorado School of Mines: Leading the Future of Mining

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*Innovation, Sustainability, and Workforce Development*



# Mines' Core Strengths: A World Leader in Mining and Mineral Engineering

- **#1 Mineral and Mining Engineering Program Worldwide** (QS World University Rankings).
- Unique focus on solving critical scientific and engineering challenges related to Earth, Energy, and Environment.
- Interdisciplinary research and collaborative approach, driving positive societal impact.



# Key Research Centers: Mining and Metals



Critical Materials Institute  
AN ENERGY INNOVATION HUB



COLORADO SCHOOL OF  
**MINES**

Earth Mechanics  
Institute (EMI)

**KIEM**  
Kroll Institute for  
Extractive Metallurgy

**CR<sup>3</sup>** CENTER FOR RESOURCE  
RECOVERY AND RECYCLING



# Key Research Centers: Mineral Exploration

**CMRS**

Center for Mineral Resources Science



CENTER FOR GRAVITY, ELECTRICAL, AND MAGNETIC STUDIES  
Colorado School of Mines



**CASERM**

CENTER TO ADVANCE THE SCIENCE OF  
EXPLORATION TO RECLAMATION IN MINING

**CWP**

Center for Wave Phenomena

**RCP** 

RESERVOIR CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT



# Key Research Centers: Sustainability and Automation



# The Edgar Mine: Experiential Learning and Cutting-Edge Research

- An operational experimental mine for hands-on education and research in mining engineering and operations.
- Proving ground for new developments.
- Provides students with practical experience in mine surveying, rock mechanics, ventilation, and safety.



# Edgar Mine: Research & Innovation Hub

- Testing autonomous vehicles, sensor networks, and human-robot interaction in real-world underground environments.
- Research on automated excavation, ground characterization, and disaster response robotics.
- Development of advanced mine planning software and real-time monitoring systems.

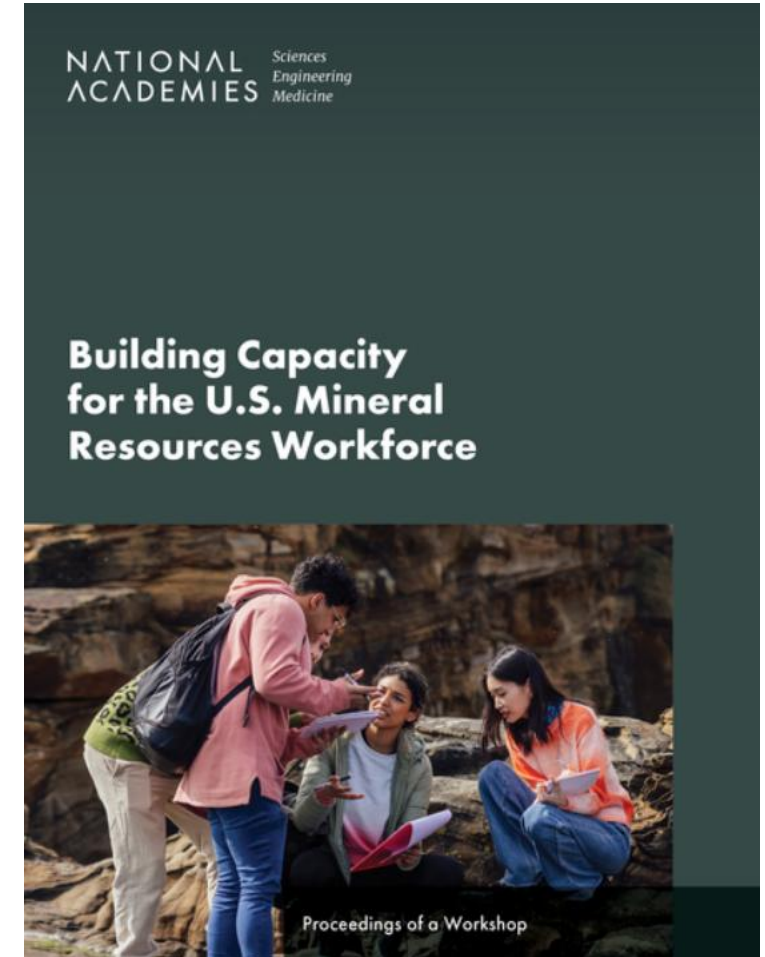


# New Entrepreneurship and Innovation Spaces



# Rebuilding the Workforce

- Address workforce gaps to rebuild global competitiveness in mining, minerals and metals processing.
- Invest in R&D (public & private)
- Credibly establish positive industry image, enhance recruitment
- Global McKinsey study of people aged 15 to 30 years: 70% “*definitely wouldn’t*” or “*probably wouldn’t*” work in mining



<https://doi.org/10.17226/27733>



# Mining and Minerals Related Degree and Leadership Programs

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## Undergraduate

Electrical Engineering  
Geological Engineering  
Geophysical Engineering  
Materials Engineering and Metallurgy  
Mechanical Engineering  
Mining Engineering  
Robotics Minor

## Graduate

Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage  
Data Science: Earth Resources  
Geochemistry  
Geology and Geological Engineering  
Geophysics and Geophysical Engineering  
GIS and Geoinformatics  
Metallurgical and Materials Engineering  
Mineral and Energy Economics  
Mineral Exploration  
Mining Engineering  
Mining Industry Management  
Nuclear Engineering  
Power Systems  
Robotics  
Space Resources  
Tailings Engineering  
Underground Construction and Tunnel Engineering

## Honors and Scholars

Future Energy Scholars  
Grand Challenges Scholars  
Grandey Leadership by Design  
First-Year Scholars  
Grewcock Presidential Scholars

# Mines Professional Education: From Fundamentals to the Future

**Mining Core (*Mining Foundations for Non-Technical Professionals*):** Designed for those new to mining or in adjacent roles, this 12-hour self-paced foundational program builds a strong understanding of the mining industry from a technical and business perspective.

## Three Courses:

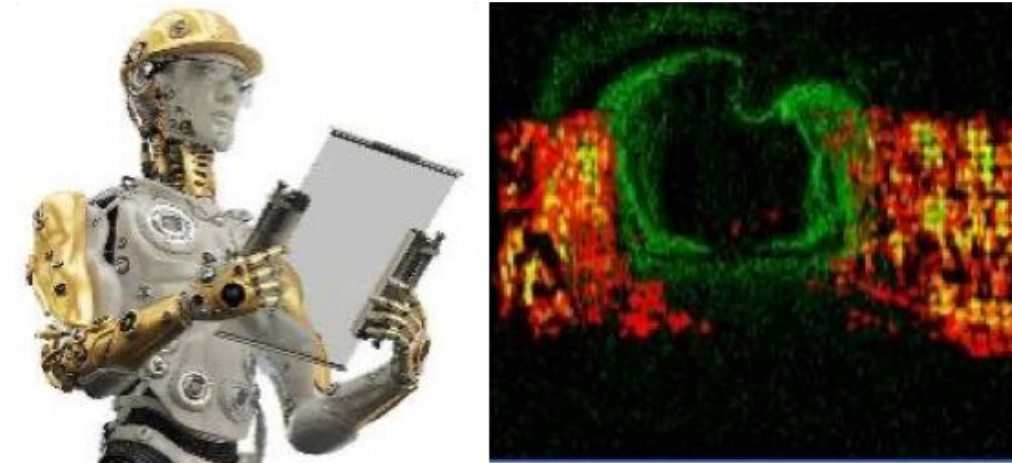
- **Inside Mining:** Lifecycle of a mine, mining methods, mineral deposits, and processing
- **Business of Mining:** Project funding, risk evaluation, due diligence, and technical communication
- **Sustainability in Mining:** ESG, water, biodiversity, tailings, mine closure, DEI, and community engagement

## Audience:

Professionals entering the mining sector or needing a comprehensive, non-technical overview



# Mines Professional Education: From Fundamentals to the Future



**Future Mine (*Advanced Executive Training for Technical Leaders*):** This immersive, cohort-based program is designed for technical executives and innovation leaders navigating the rapidly evolving mining landscape. The program is delivered in person and spans one week.

## Program Themes:

- **Automation & AI:** Robotics, autonomous vehicles, data lakes, sensor telemetry
- **Green Technologies:** Decarbonization, water circularity, low-impact innovations
- **Strategic Decision-Making:** Governance, ethics, risk, value chain optimization
- **Future Workforce:** Skills agility, continuity of knowledge
- **Field Visit:** Experiential learning at an experimental mine site

## Audience:

Senior technical leaders, innovation managers, and decision-makers in mining



# Critical Minerals & Mining Thought Leadership

## Go-To Partners for Expertise

- Congressional Testimony & Briefings
- Federal Convenings & Workshops
- Payne Institute for Public Policy Convenings



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## Partnerships & Coalitions

- Policymakers
- Industry
- Mining Schools Coalition
- NGOs & Think Tanks



### OPINION

## Mining for talent: Education's crucial role in America's clean energy, mineral-driven future

Recognizing the importance of critical minerals for a more sustainable and secure future, the U.S. government has intensified its support for responsible mining and its workforce.

By Misael Cabrera and Bill Zisch

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, rising global tensions, escalating environmental concerns and the quest for sustainable energy, our nation's future hinges on strategic investments in the critical minerals sector. Minerals are the foundation of modern technology — powering defense systems, medical equipment, infrastructure, microprocessors, transportation, and energy, particularly green energy. However, in the pursuit of critical mineral independence, perhaps our most crucial resource is a [skilled mineral workforce](#).



# Critical Minerals & Mining Thought Leadership

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- Federal Convenings & Workshops
- Campus Convenings

## Partnerships & Coalitions

- Policymakers
- Industry
- Mining Schools Coalition
- NGO & Think Tan

## Policy Leadership

- Mining & Minerals Workforce
- Mining & Minerals Innovation
- Community Engagement
- Interagency Coordination
- Mineral Markets & Stockpiles
- International Capacity Building
- Space Resources

## Hickenlooper Announces Bipartisan Effort to Secure American Critical Minerals

**GOLDEN, COLO.** – Today, in a speech at the Colorado School of Mines, U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper announced the introduction of two bipartisan bills with U.S. Senator Thom Tillis to guide a national strategy on a clean, responsible, and innovative approach to critical mineral sourcing. The bills kickstart an effort to establish American dominance in critical minerals.



Hickenlooper Press Release, September 13, 2024



## A SCIENTIFIC, DATA DRIVEN APPROACH TO INFORMING THE GLOBAL ENERGY FUTURE

Leverages Mines' broad technical expertise throughout the energy system to create a comprehensive understanding of future energy opportunities and challenges

- Convening Thought Leaders
- Research
- Education
- Events
- Global partners



### Critical Minerals Symposium

September 11-12, 2025  
Golden, Colorado

# Industry Partnerships & Collaborations

- Extensive network of industry-university consortia, connecting with hundreds of companies.
- Strong partnerships with federal labs (DOE, USGS, NASA, NIST) and governmental agencies.
- Collaborative research, talent development, and policy leadership.

ASPPRC Advanced Steel Processing & Products Research Center



CENTER FOR WELDING JOINING & COATINGS RESEARCH  
COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES



# Collaborations are in our DNA

USGS-Mines Energy and Mineral Resources Facility on Mines Campus  
Authorized and appropriated. Construction underway.



# Partnering with Mines

- Hire our students
- Engage with our consortia and research centers
- Join in symposia, thought leadership convenings
- Join Mines Energy Alliance
- Use our R&D facilities
- Sponsor research / collaborations
- Facilitate joint appointments
- Provide internship and co-op opportunities
- Sponsor an innovation challenge focused on company interests
- Connect with the Venture Center
- Take advantage of Mines ProEd
- Co-develop new facilities and research projects





Discussion