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The USGS Earth Resources University Partnership Program - Committed to Mineral Resources Research, Education, and Workforce Development

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Strengthening domestic critical minerals supply chains in the United States will require a robust and highly skilled workforce. However, recent declines in relevant geoscience and engineering degrees awarded, university department consolidations and closures, and ongoing retirements coupled with increasing demand for expertise in the mining and processing of critical minerals means the supply of skilled geoscientists, engineers, and other experts will fall well short of the demand. To remedy this growing workforce gap, the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Mineral Resources Program is launching the Earth Resources University Partnership, with the aim of bringing together academic institutions, professional societies, State governments, NGOs, and other Federal agencies to develop a collaborative, multi-university programmatic framework to meet evidence-based research and education needs. The partnership will work to leverage shared expertise, resources, curriculum, and industry relationships to strengthen student to workforce pipelines, support new critical minerals faculty and research, and reinvigorate academic program offerings and interdisciplinary pathways. The partnership will also work to forge innovative collaborations and approaches, with consideration of potential joint degree programs, credit sharing, and new credential programs, including a focus on at-risk university programs. Through the Earth Resources University Partnership, USGS is committed to helping foster the next generation of STEM professionals to improve the ability of the United States to advance domestic critical minerals exploration, development, production, manufacturing, and research, including research into alternative materials and recycling.