

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

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| 7:00 AM  | Registration opens                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8:00 AM  | Opening session<br><b>Opening keynote: Sarah M. Forbes, Director-Office of Coal, Department of Energy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9:00 AM  | SME awards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9:15 AM  | <b>Technical Session 1: Coal Center of Excellence</b><br><b>Overview of the NETL Coal Center of Excellence</b><br>Kirk Gerdes, National Energy Technology Laboratory<br><b>AI/Machine Learning for Subsurface Applications</b><br>Hema Siriwardane, Ph.D., P.E., National Energy Technology Laboratory<br><b>Pennsylvania's Coal Industry – Everything is Connected</b><br>Rachel Gleason, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Coal Alliance                                                                                                                              |
| 10:55 AM | <b>Technical Session 2: MSHA Technical</b><br><b>MSHA's Mine Emergency Operations Division Capabilities</b><br>Eric Glisan, Branch Chief-MEO Division, MSHA<br><b>MSHA's Health Field Division Capabilities and Operations</b><br>Margaret Weddell, Chemist, MSHA<br><b>Borehole Design and Construction</b><br>Brad Wurl, Ventilation Engineer, MSHA                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 12:20 PM | <b>Luncheon keynote: Wayne D. Palmer, Assistant Secretary of Labor, MSHA</b><br>or <b>James (Jim) McHugh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, MSHA</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1:30 PM  | <b>Technical Session 3: Critical Mineral and Energy Institute</b><br><b>Extracting Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals From Coal</b><br>Stephen Winter, Program Manager-Carbon Management Innovations, Core Natural Resources<br><b>Assessing Critical Minerals in Coal Mine Drainage Utilizing 60 Years of Geochemistry Data</b><br>Bonnie McDevitt, Ph.D., Research Physical Scientist, USGS<br><b>Health Effects of Critical Minerals: A Focus on Quartz</b><br>Barbara J. Arnold, Ph.D., P.E., Professor of Practice in Mining Engineering, Penn State Univ. |

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

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| 7:00 AM  | Registration opens – PCMIA BOD business meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8:00 AM  | Opening session<br><b>Opening keynote: Mary B. Korpi, 2026 SME President</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9:00 AM  | <b>Technical Session 4: Soft Skills</b><br><b>Knowledge to Impact: Technical Presentation Skills for Professionals</b><br>Laurie Brown, CSP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:40 AM | <b>Technical Session 5: Engineering Projects</b><br><b>Validating Mine Rescue Performance Criteria for VR Training</b><br>Jennica Bellanca, Lead Bio/Mechanical Engineer, NIOSH<br><b>Operational Focus and the Influx of AI</b><br>Kevin W. Pan, Senior Project Manager, Oak Grove Mine<br><b>Draining and Dewatering Projects to Access Thin-Interburden Multi-Seam Reserves at a Brownfield Mine – Cherry Tree Mine</b><br>Brett A. Ashley, P.E., Mining Engineer, Rosebud Mining Company |
| 12:20 PM | <b>Luncheon keynote: Jim Barker, President-Rosebud Mining Company</b><br>PCMIA and student awards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1:40 PM  | <b>Technical Session 6: Health and Safety</b><br><b>Developing and Maintaining a Culture of Safety</b><br>Eric K. Anderson, General Manager, Tunnel Ridge Mine<br><b>A Methodology for Constructing Screening-Level Heat Release Rate Curves for Mining Battery Electric Vehicle Fires</b><br>Lihong (Lilly) Zhou, Ph.D., General Engineer, NIOSH<br><b>A Gassy Longwall Mine Ventilation Case Study</b><br>Todor Petrov, Ph.D., Associate Service Fellow, NIOSH                             |
| 3:30 PM  | <b>Reception</b> sponsored by <b>Core Natural Resources</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |