

West Virginia Coal Mining Institute

Mining 1st Look Scholarship Program

West Virginia Coal Mining Institute

- Institute organized in 1908, to advance the coal mining industry within the State of West Virginia, to encourage education in practical and scientific mining, and to promote study and research into mining problems.

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WVU Academic Transformation

- March 2023 Charge by President Gee issued a call for strategic repositioning of the WVU system in response to additional challenges brought by a structural budget shortfall.
- The goal is to merge and consolidate smaller academic units into new structures that result in dynamic academic programming, administrative efficiencies, and cost savings. Such mergers should occur between units that share a similar mission and instructional and research alignments. <https://provost.wvu.edu/academic-transformation/academic-restructuring>
- **August 2023 WVU provost recommended merger between Mining Engineering and Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering.** <https://provost.wvu.edu/files/d/3683478f-cb63-4691-a1e2-75eb9a711178/preliminary-recommendation-mining-engineering.pdf>
- Strong response against the merger from alumna, industry supporters, and visiting committee – not in the best long-term interest of the program and metrics used primarily based on enrollment and did not sufficiently include research and Foundation resources
- Merged department separated by Department chair replacement with Faculty member Qingqing Huang - November 2023 (approximate)

Mining 1st Look Scholarship 24-25 AY

- Implemented to increase student enrollment through incentive financial support (Fall 2024)
- Requirements - completed the following courses:
 - ENGR 101
 - ENGR 191
 - Math 155
- **And declare Mining Engineering as a Major (Spring 2024 forward)**
- WVCMI Board initially authorized 13 \$2,000 Scholarships
- In February authorized another 10
- Assisted with additional donations from JBoyd, JTBoyd Co, and Iron Senergy totaling \$20,000
- 24-25 awarded 16 Mining 1st Look \$2,000 Scholarships

From Left to Right:

- **Jim Dean**
- **Brayden Sizemore**



From Left to Right:

- **Jared Forman**
- **Zachary Oseneek**



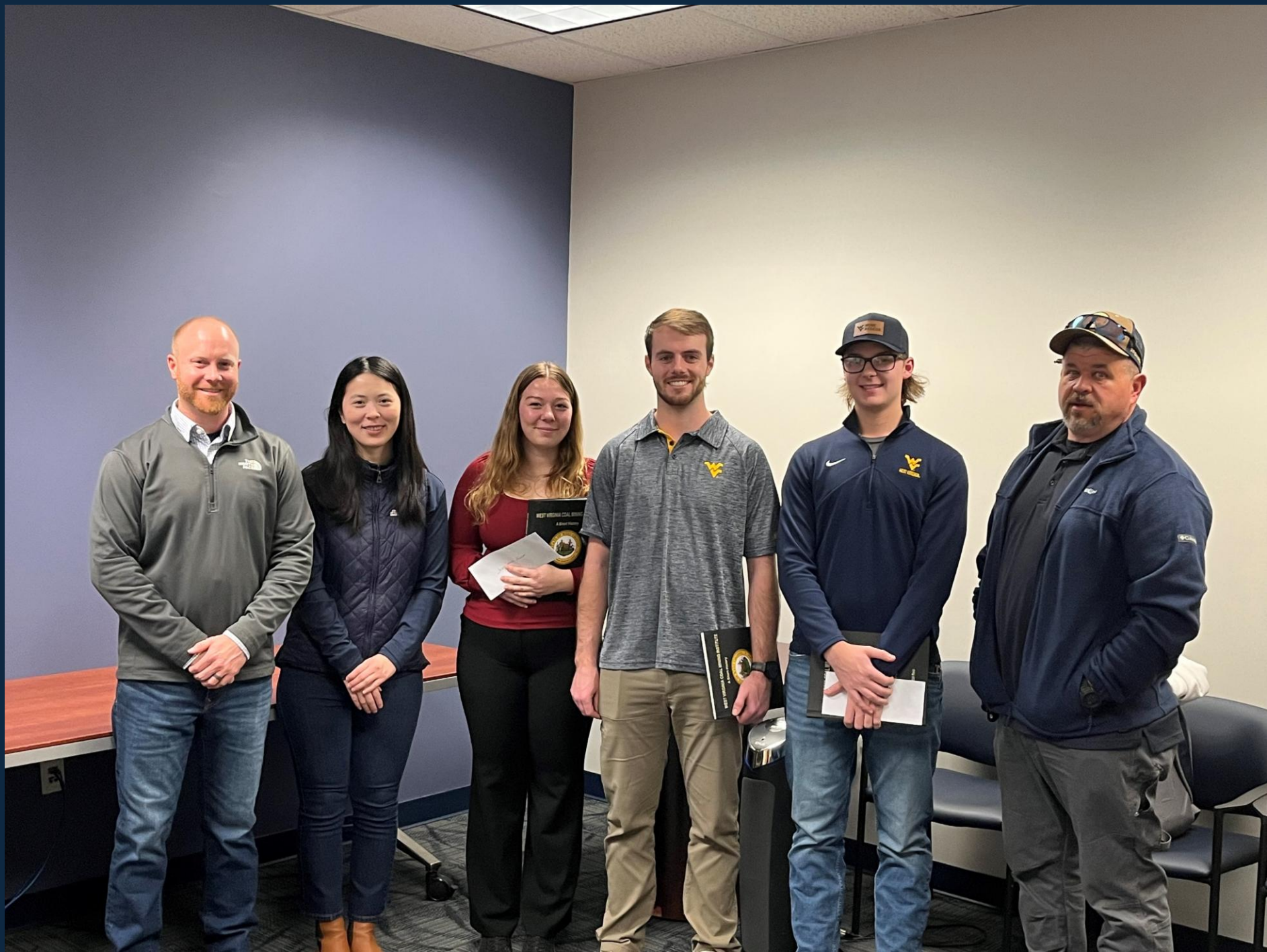
From Left to Right:

- **Jared Forman**
- **Braden Kiesel**
- **Drake Reese**
- **Liam Dwyer**
- **Tom Sloan**



From Left to Right:

- **Jared Forman**
- **Qingqing Huang**
- **Jewelanna Fowler**
- **Daniel Schmidt**
- **Connor Keddle**
- **Tom Sloan**



From Left to Right:

- **Qingqing Huang**
- **Elena Webster**
- **Jared Forman**
- **Richard Montanye**
- **Tom Sloan**



From Left to Right:

- **Qingqing Huang**
- **Patrick Pelley**
- **James Hoskins**
- **Tom Sloan**
- **Jared Forman**



From Left to Right:

- **Jared Forman**
- **Patrick Pelley**
- **Genette Chapman**
- **Leonid Burge**
- **Tom Sloan**



From Left to Right:

- **Qingqing Huang**
- **Patrick Pelley**
- **Joel Ball**
- **Nicholas White**
- **Tom Sloan**



From Left to Right:

- **Qingqing Huang**
- **Patrick Pelley**
- **Samuel De Grandpre**
- **Dillon Shilling**
- **Tom Sloan**



May-June 2025

The WVCMI Board approved and authorized the officers of WVCMI to implement a second round of Mining 1st Look Scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year to be allocated as follows:

- \$20,000 == 20 - \$1,000 Mining 1st Look Incentive scholarships
- \$30,000 == 15 - \$2,000 Mining 1st Look Scholarships
- Chair Huang requested creation of \$1,000 1st Look Scholarship to particularly incentivize recruitment of freshman/transfer students that have applied to WVU and indicated Mining Engineering as a field of interest.

Note current department scholarship resources do not allow awarding to freshmen students.

- Chair Huang emails to 11 students that paid deposit for Fall 2025
- Emails to 15 students admitted to WVU but haven't paid deposit

May-June 2025

WVCMI is requesting formal documentation from the WVU Mining Engineering Department on the details of departmental scholarships awarded to each student.

- For the Mining 1st Look Incentive Scholarship - \$1,000 the WVCMI will receive a copy of the letter sent to students that would receive the scholarship along with other scholarships offered by the department/college or university if the student attends WVU.
- The WVCMI is requesting a status report on department undergraduate enrollment during September/October timeframe.
- Similar reports on enrollment, recruiting and other relevant department information after the Spring Semester begins and after the Spring Semester ends.
- Overall departmental resources dedicated to recruiting and scholarships. If student approval has not been granted, report using Student A, B, etc. will be used for reporting purposes (similar to student awards banquet presentation).

Departmental Scholarships

- Annual GPA Based Scholarships –Mining Engineering Majors

- **Minimum of \$5,900**
 - Minimum 2.75 GPA
 - Declared Mining Engineering Major
 - Eligible for 3 years
- **Minimum of \$6,900**
 - GPA of 3.25-3.74
 - Declared Mining Engineering Major
 - Eligible for 3 years
- **Minimum of \$7,500**
 - Minimum 3.75 GPA
 - Declared Mining Engineering Major
 - Eligible for 3 years

- Annual GPA Based Scholarships –Dual Mining/Civil Engineering Majors

- **Minimum of \$5,000**
 - Minimum 2.75 GPA
 - Declared Mining/Civil Engineering Dual Major
 - Eligible for 4 years
- **Minimum of \$5,450**
 - GPA of 3.25-3.74
 - Declared Mining/Civil Engineering Dual Major
 - Eligible for 4 years
- **Minimum of \$6,000**
 - Minimum 3.75 GPA
 - Declared Mining/Civil Engineering Dual Major
 - Eligible for 4 years

Note: Scholarship Guidelines available upon request. Application is through common Statler College QR Code.

Mining Engineering Freshmen Welcome Event



9/3/25

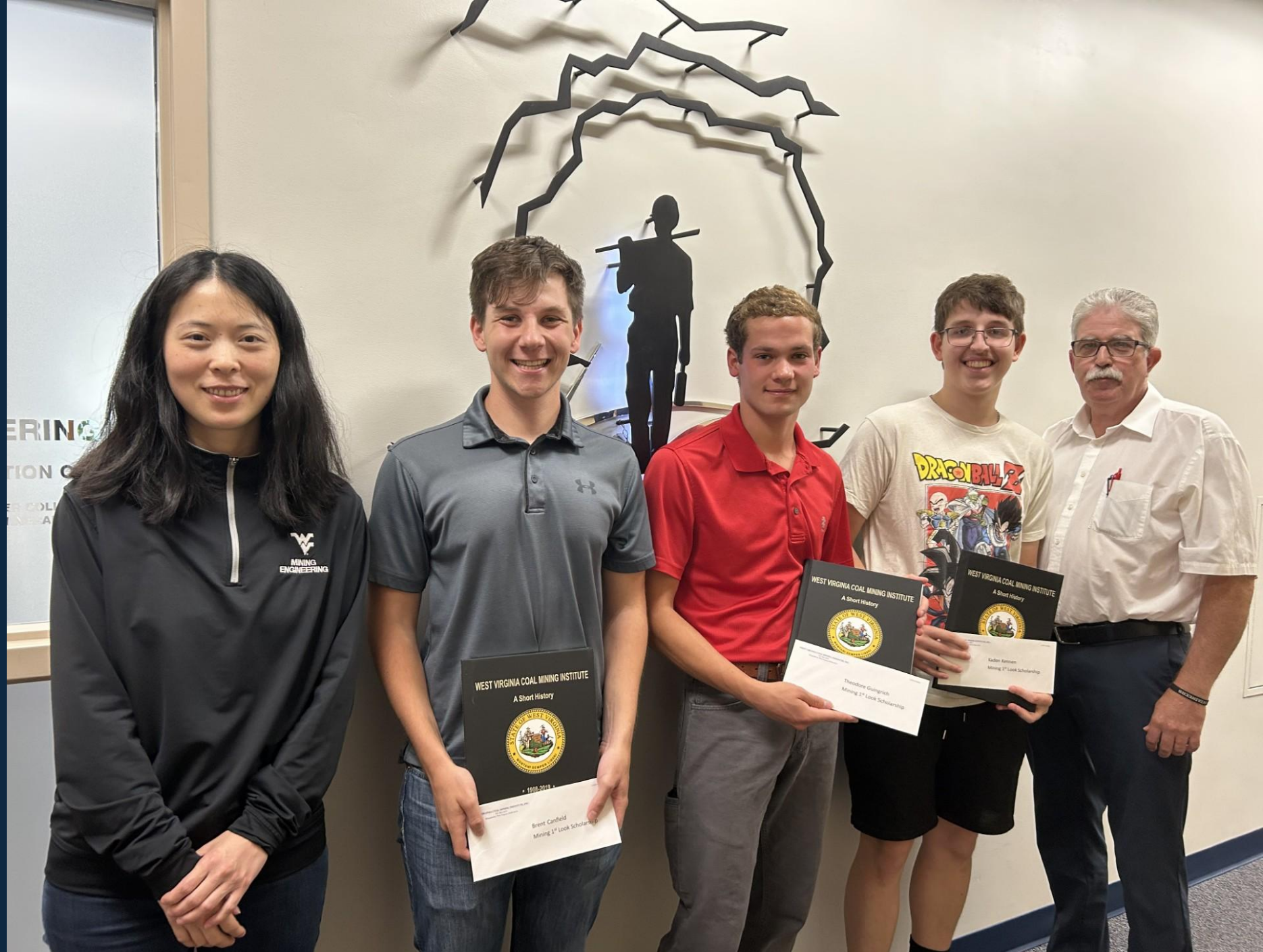
From Left to Right:

- **Jim Dean**
- **Gabe Ferri**



From Left to Right:

- Qingqing Huang
- Brent Canfield
- Theodore Guingrich
- Kaden Kennen
- Jim Dean



AY 24-25

16 1st Look

\$32,000

AY 25-26

4 of 5 1st Look

7 of 10 Incentive

\$15,000 to date

- Mining Engineering Enrollment/Freshmen Applications

26 students admitted to WVU Mining Engineering for fall 2025

11 paid deposits

A significantly increased interest in mining compared to the year before (3 vs 11)

- *Mining Student Enrollment for the last three years*

Enrollment	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
<i>Undergraduate</i>	29	29	29 (not finalized)
<i>Graduate</i>	19	16	8 (not finalized)

- *A nearly flat UG student number for the past three years, a good progress compared to many other engineering disciplines, with a declining trend in enrollment*
- *Graduate students are hired by the faculty's grants*
- *Potential lies in exploring industrially funded GRA positions for graduate student recruiting*

Job Placement

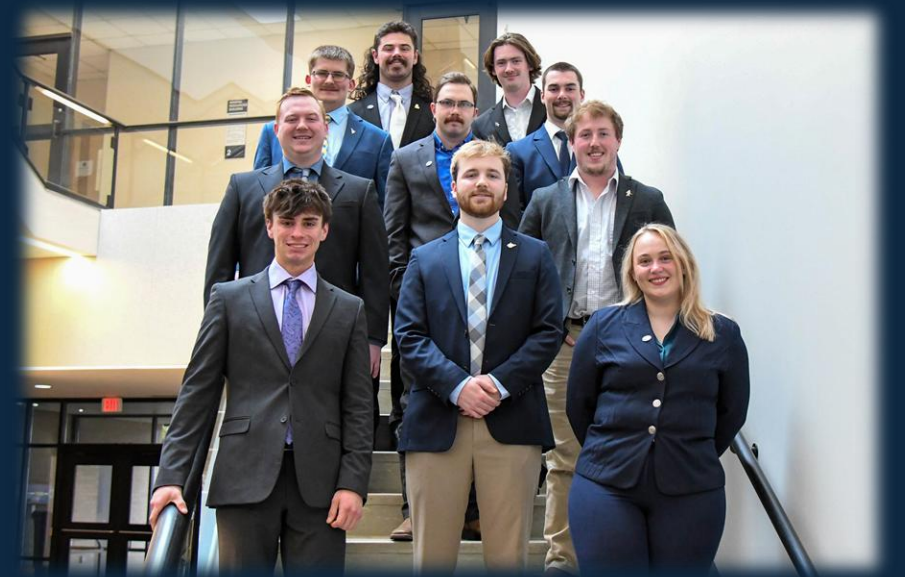
Undergraduate Students

**Core Natural Resources
Heidelberg Materials
Peabody
Holcim
LP Mineral
REI Drilling**

100% Job Placement

Graduate Students

**RESPEC
Freeport-McMoran
Vulcan Materials
Nevada Gold
Lhoist North America**



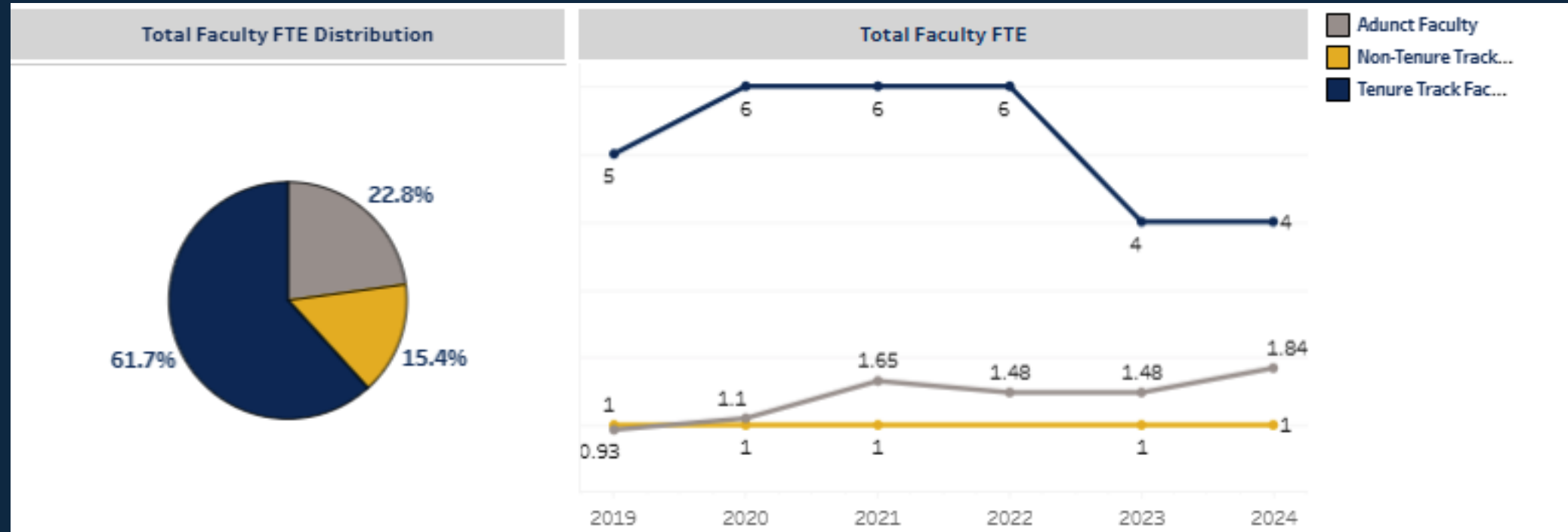
Faculty Updates

Currently 5 Full Time Faculty

1 Tenure-Track Associate Professor and Chair

2 Tenure-Track Assistant Professors

2 Non-Tenure Track Teaching Professors



Mining Department Recruitment Activities

- Mining VR Demonstration
- WVU Merit Badge University
- 2025 Summer Virtual and In-Person Camp
- 2025 Statler College Middle and High School Camps
- Scholarship Incentives
- Field Trips for Freshmen Students
- Freshmen Engineering 191 Presentations
- Job Shadows for Admitted Mining Students
- Other Recruiting Initiatives



Summary

- Strong partnership developing with Department and WVCMI
- Enabling the Department Chair to award Mining incentive scholarship to freshmen accepted to WVU with hopefully strong conversion to declaring Mining Engineering after prerequisite courses completed
- Greater communication of Department information to relevant stakeholders and groups
- Hopefully lead to some endowment language changes to add flexibility



Questions?

- Jim Dean
- WVCMI Secretary
- WVU Mining Extension Agent
- James.Dean@mail.wvu.edu
- 304-276-0591
- <https://mindext.statler.wvu.edu/mining-extension>