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MEDIA ADVISORY: Critical Minerals Workshop

AUGUST 4, 2025

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North American Workshop on Critical Mineral Research, Development, and Education

August 13–14, 2025

Thompson Conference Center
Austin, Texas, USA



The University of Texas at Austin
Jackson School of Geosciences



Hear from some of the world's foremost experts on critical minerals — including academic researchers, government experts, startup CEOs, and workforce development specialists — on how the U.S. is growing its supply chain for these rare earth elements that are essential to the energy

transition.

Critical minerals are vital ingredients of modern technology, including cell phones, electric vehicles, semiconductors, solar panels and batteries. Yet they are often difficult to extract and come from countries outside the U.S., which threatens the national supply chain.

From August 13-14, 2025, The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences will host the inaugural North American Workshop on Critical Mineral Research, Development, and Education (<https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/critical-minerals-workshop/>). The workshop is a rare event that unites experts from diverse backgrounds, including geologists, engineers, metallurgists, environmental scientists, and political scientists who are working to secure a U.S. supply of critical minerals.

Keynote talks, poster presentations, and breakout sessions will address issues such as mineral exploration and recycling technologies, supply chain economics, and workforce training and development from government, research, and industry perspectives.

The workshop is open to the public with in-person events that will stream online. Full schedule (<https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/critical-minerals-workshop/participate/schedule/>).

Note to reporters: Contact Robin Berghaus (robin.berghaus@austin.utexas.edu) by August 12 to register for a press pass. Experts are available for interviews during the event.

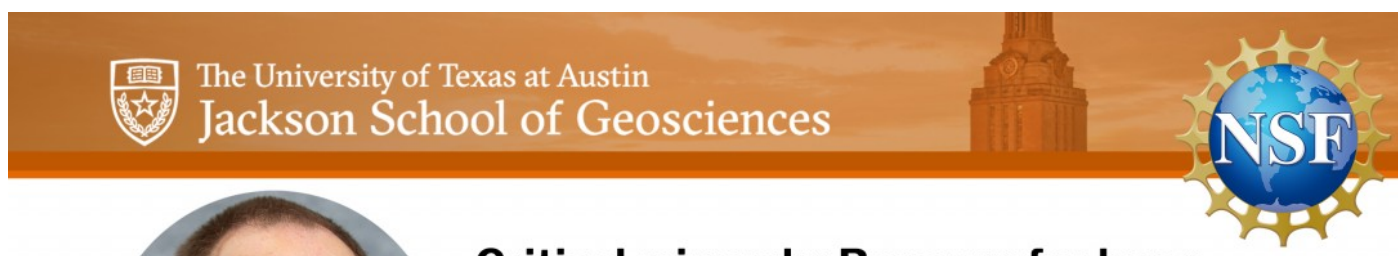
When: August 13, 2025 from 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; August 14, 2025 from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Venue: Thompson Conference Center and Zoom

Hosts: Associate Professor Marek Locmelis, doctoral student Shelby Clark, and a committee of researchers from the Jackson School's Bureau of Economic Geology and the UT Cockrell School of Engineering.

ElementUSA, an Austin-based emerging critical mineral producer, is sponsoring the workshop dinner. Ellis Sullivan from ElementUSA will discuss their role in increasing critical mineral supply chain resilience during a dinner keynote lecture. When registering for a press pass, reporters may request a seat at the workshop dinner, which is by reservation only. Seating is limited and offered if available.

Keynote speakers:





Critical minerals: Reasons for hope

Jeffrey L. Mauk

Emeritus Geologist
*Geology, Geophysics, and Geochemistry Science Center,
United States Geological Survey*



Development of lithium manganese oxide sorbents for the recovery of lithium from brines

Daniel Alessi

Professor
*Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Jackson
School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin*



Challenges and opportunities for students in critical minerals space

Robert J. Bodnar

C.C. Garvin Professor and
University Distinguished Professor
Department of Geosciences, Virginia Tech



Inspiring the Next Generation: Success Stories and Strategies from Youth Outreach

Leah Turner

Director of Education and Strategic Partnerships
CUAHSI



Innovations to Address Challenges in Critical Mineral Processing

Douglas Wicks

Program Director
*Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy
(ARPA-E), United States Department of Energy*



Revolutionizing Critical Mineral Recovery: Bridging Biotechnology & Mining for a Sustainable Future



Jessica Urbina

Founder and CEO
Infinite Elements



The 21st Century Minerals Industry; Energy Transition Challenges and Opportunities and Policy Influences on Metal Supply and Demand

Simon Jowitt

Arthur Brant Chair of Exploration Geology
University of Nevada-Reno
Director and State Geologist
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology



Environmental impacts of critical mineral supply chains and policy implications

Jani Das

Research Assistant Professor
*Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of
Texas at Austin*

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