



INAUGURATION SYMPOSIUM:
The University's Role in
Translating Energy Challenges into
Business and Employment Opportunities



MICHAEL POLSKY, M.S.M.E., M.B.A.
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
INVENERGY

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FRANK CENTER THEATER

EVENT MODERATOR:
MARY J.C. HENDRIX, PH.D.
SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT
SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

EXCELLENCE INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS AND MODEL CITIZENS

MICHAEL POLSKY, M.S.M.E., M.B.A.

With 30 years of experience in the energy industry, Michael Polsky is widely recognized as a power sector pioneer. He founded and leads Invenergy, the world's largest independent, privately-held renewable generation company. Invenergy is his third entrepreneurial venture in the energy space. In 1991, Polsky founded SkyGen Energy, a developer, owner, and operator of natural gas-fueled generating plants, which was purchased by Calpine Corporation in 2001. Before forming SkyGen, Polsky co-founded and was president of Indeck Energy Services Inc.

Polsky believes academic institutions have a central role to play in encouraging entrepreneurship. In 2002, he endowed the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He also co-founded and is co-Chair of the Board of Clean Energy Trust, a nonprofit that supports student-led startups and experienced entrepreneurs who are commercializing new energy technologies.

Polsky holds an M.S.M.E. degree from Kiev Polytechnic Institute and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.



MICHAEL POLSKY
INVENERGY

XINGBO LIU, PH.D.

Xingbo Liu began his professional career at West Virginia University as a postdoctoral researcher in 2000 and joined the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering as a faculty member in 2002. He became a full professor in 2014. Liu has also served as the associate chair for research within the department since 2012.

He has received several honors from the scientific community and the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at WVU, including the R&D 100 Award (2011), Innovator of the Year from TechConnect WV (2013), Outstanding Research (2007-2009, 2011), and Researcher of the Year (2011). Liu earned a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in materials science from the University of Science and Technology in Beijing.



XINGBO LIU
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

JEFFREY GROFF, PH.D.

Jeff Groff is associate professor of physics in the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences at Shepherd University. He completed his undergraduate degree in physics at McDaniel College and earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in applied science from the College of William and Mary. His graduate work involved biophysical models of intracellular signaling and neural processing.

Since joining the faculty at Shepherd, Groff has endeavored to enrich the Environmental Studies program by developing courses that use physics and electronics to explore humanity's interactions with natural and built environments. He is passionate about small-scale residential solar power, having designed and built a photovoltaic system for his home. He currently serves as secretary of the Shepherd Faculty Senate, chair of the American Association of Physics Teachers Committee on Educational Technology, and vice president of the American Conservation Film Festival. Groff was also a recent recipient of the McDaniel Honors Program College Scholar Alumni Award.



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