



SPRING 2026



2026 Undergraduate Research Awards

“From creating next-gen battery anodes and conductive films, to enabling second lives for plastic and tires, these projects demonstrate how UW students innovate to tackle global challenges,” said Washington Clean Energy Testbeds Managing Director Mike Pomfret.



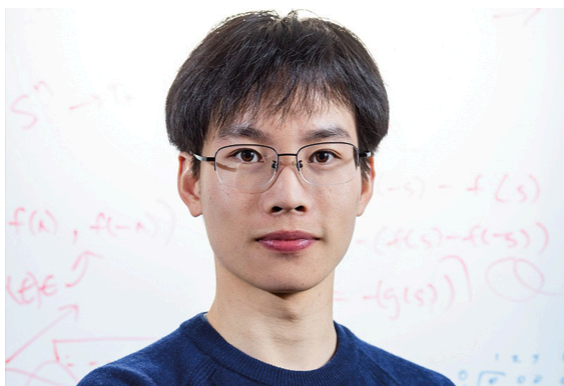
Eliane Nirere receives award for research helping to bring



Advancing water treatment for a sustainable future

[electricity to remote African communities](#)

CEI Graduate Fellow Eliane Nirere received a 2026 fellowship award from the Sarala Vadari Endowed Fund in Electrical & Computer Engineering. This year's fellowship award honors Nirere's academic achievements and her research aimed at bringing electricity and renewable energy to remote, underserved communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.



CEI Graduate Fellow Joelle Scott is working toward a more sustainable and equitable future through advanced materials research, testing new methods to remove toxic forever chemicals and other contaminants from wastewater.



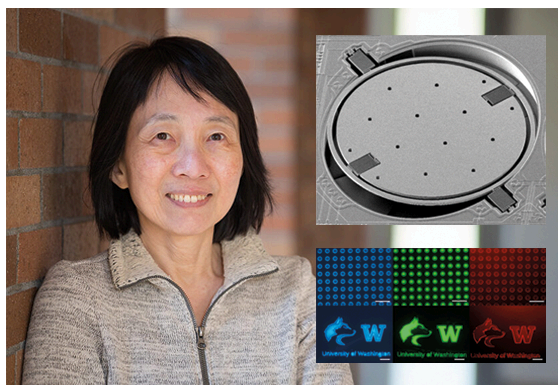
[Zhihan Zhang earns Google Ph.D. Fellowship for advancing sustainable computing](#)

CEI Graduate Fellow Zhihan Zhang is tackling the challenge of sustainability on multiple fronts, from developing recyclable electronics to leveraging artificial intelligence in estimating carbon footprints.



[A second life for plastics](#)

CEI Member Faculty Matthew Golder is a polymer scientist who explores ways to alter the chemical structure of plastics to keep them out of landfills. This February, he was named a 2026 Sloan Research Fellow in Chemistry.

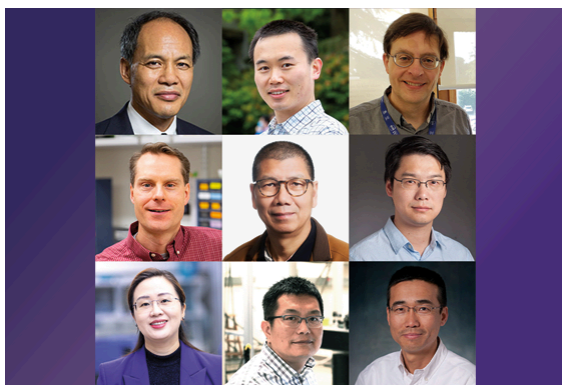


Building Batteries Better

Looking beyond incremental innovations in energy storage technology, CEI member faculty Jie Xiao wants to catalyze a robust domestic battery industry.

Lih-Yuan Lin named National Academy of Inventors Fellow

CEI Affiliate Professor Lih-Yuan Lin has been elected into the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) 2025 Class of Fellows. This distinction recognizes her outstanding work and lasting impact in nanotechnology, photonics, and optoelectronics



Nine CEI faculty among world's Highly Cited Researchers

Seven CEI Member Faculty and two Affiliate Faculty are among the UW researchers named to the Highly Cited Researchers 2025 list from Clarivate.

HUSKY GIVING DAY

Ahead of Husky Giving Day on April 23, we're excited to announce an early giving challenge: the next 10 gifts to CEI will unlock a \$3,000 faculty and staff gift! **GIVE TODAY**

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Deposition-Dependent Coverage and Performance of Phosphonic Acid Interface Modifiers in Halide Perovskite Optoelectronics

ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces

Effect of Vapor Phase Infiltration on Mechanical and Chemical Properties of Polyethersulfone Membranes

ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces

Quantification of Shallow Defect Suppression in Aminosilane-Passivated Lead Halide Perovskites via Optical and Electrochemical Methods

ACS Energy Letters

An automated sampling workflow for parallel long-term membrane diffusion cell testing

Digital Discovery

Extending Transmission Line Models to Second-Harmonic Nonlinear Electrochemical Impedance Spectra

Journal of the Electrochemical Society

Measurement Model Validation of Second-Harmonic Nonlinear Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy

Journal of the Electrochemical Society

Laboratory evaluation of rapid-setting concrete mixes for sustainable pavement repairs: a comparative evaluation with traditional concretes

Materials and Structures

Optical control of integer and fractional Chern insulators

Nature

Signatures of fractional charges via anyon-trions in twisted MoTe₂

Nature

Historical and future learning for the new era of multi-terawatt photovoltaics

Nature Energy

Lessons from copper indium gallium sulfo-selenide solar cells for progressing perovskite photovoltaics

Nature Energy

Observation of dissipationless fractional Chern insulator

Nature Physics

SEMINARS

CEI Interdisciplinary Seminars, 4pm-5pm in NanoES 181:

April 23: Jungwon Choi, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Washington

May 7: Dylan Stevenson, Assistant Professor of Urban Design & Planning, University of Washington

May 21: Jill Pestana, Battery Scientist & Engineer, Founder & CEO, Pestana Solutions

May 28: CEI End of Year Seminar

APPLY!

CEI Graduate Fellowship [applications](#) due May 1.

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