



2025 COES Alumni of the Year



## Physics - Mark Wade, PhD

- **Education:**
  - Louisiana Tech University
    - B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Physics (2010), summa cum laude, top graduate of the class.
    - Editor of E&S Magazine.
    - Member of Eta Kappa Nu honor society.
  - University of Colorado
    - Ph.D.
    - NSF Graduate Research Fellow.
    - Recipient of Top Dissertation Award (2015).
  - MIT
    - Winner of the 2015 MIT Clean Energy Prize
  
- **Professional Experience:**
  - Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Ayar Labs.
    - Recognized pioneer in photonics technologies.
    - Previously served as Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President of Engineering.
  - Led the team that designed the optics for the world's first processor to communicate using light.
  - Conducted groundbreaking research at MIT and UC Berkeley from 2013 to 2015, leading to the formation of Ayar Labs.
  
- **Research & Recognition:**
  - Served as Principal Investigator on DARPA projects.
  - Led technology initiatives showcased at the White House.
  - Featured in Bloomberg and The Wall Street Journal for contributions to cutting-edge photonics research.
  
- **Personal Achievements:**
  - Active drummer during university.