

Join us at the ABET Program Evaluator Update

C. Dale Elifrits and Gary Skaggs

The SME cadre of ABET program evaluators (PEVs) for service in degree program accreditation of geological, geophysical, mining, and mineral engineering programs in the U.S. and worldwide always needs more trained program evaluators. Part of the training occurs each year at the SME Annual Conference and Expo.

For 2015, the SME PEV update training is Saturday afternoon, February 14, 2015. Please contact Mona Vandervoort (vandervoort@smenet.org) now to make your reservation.

This Update session serves: 1) to provide trained and experienced PEVs with the opportunity to renew their training and preparation to continue to be among ABET's most positively evaluated PEVs, 2) to offer geological, geophysical, mining, and mineral engineering faculty members and program heads the opportunity to engage in the sharing of information and experiences to help them be better able to prepare for a program evaluation visit by a PEV, and 3) to encourage SME members to join in the work of assuring quality engineering degree programs to continue to produce high quality graduates for our industries. This invitation is intended to solicit new PEV candidates from our SME membership to start the process to become fully trained and help to enlarge the SME cadre of PEVs.

The session starts with a luncheon provided by the SME Foundation, the funding source for all of SME's ABET responsibilities. The training session agenda includes conversations about changes in program evaluation criteria, both the general criteria that apply to all engineering degree programs and program-specific criteria for geological and mining engineering, then a review of the strengths and weakness of past campus team visit activities and reports, followed by examination of some actual situations that PEVs have encountered in preparation for and actual execution of campus visits from past years.

This year during the last part of the update program, some practice in writing exit statements for the program being visited will be included. Examples of proper wording and phraseology will be a part of these exercises. The "take-a-ways" from this ABET Program Evaluator Update session will be a better informed understanding of the criteria and procedures by which programs are evaluated, update of policies and produces that PEVs and campus visit teams are expected to follow, and a better understanding how to write the exit statement that will be given to the program and campus leaderships and the visit team chair at the conclusion of the campus visit.

The Update Session Program leaders are SME's Representative Director to the ABET Board, Gary Skaggs, Engineering Accreditation Commission members David R. Hammond and Gary McMahon along with the Board and Commission alternate members and two former Commission members. Rick Sweigard, and Jeff Keeton, who are now on the Commission Executive Committee. Make your reservation today and plan to join us for a rewarding afternoon of update and training activities.