The Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Utah Section presents Michael Free from the University of Utah

**TOPIC:**
Rare Earth Elements and Critical Metals from Uses and Sources to Low-Cost Extraction and Recovery

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY:**
Michael Free is a Professor in and Chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has performed research and taught courses as a faculty member for more than 27 years. His areas of expertise include hydrometallurgy, electrometallurgy, corrosion, and materials synthesis. He has been the principal investigator of more than 65 research projects funded by more than 20 companies, the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Office of Naval Research, and the National Science Foundation. He has authored or co-authored more than 260 publications. He has been a paid consultant for 40 organizations. He received a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering, an M.S. degree in chemical engineering and a Ph.D. degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Utah. He worked as a Post-Doctoral Associate at the University of Florida in the Departments of Materials Science and Engineering and Chemical Engineering for two years before becoming a faculty member at the University of Utah.

**RSVP FOR DINNER BY MONDAY JULY 15, 2024**
Remembering Rebecca Bweupe-Siwale

The SME Utah Section is devastated by the passing of Rebecca Bweupe-Siwale. Rebecca served as the Head of Digital Services for FLSmidth, where she managed a team of 90 individuals globally. Rebecca’s passion for the mining industry was present in every facet of her work.

In 2022, she was named a WIM100: a prestigious award honoring influential women in the mining industry: https://www.womeninmining.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-Edition_WIM_100_Publication_v2.pdf

She has held leadership positions within WIM UT and SME- supporting the I&D Committee, WAIMME, the Women of SME, and many others.

Rebecca was a proud and loving mother of 3 beautiful daughters, who are left on their own in her absence. A fundraiser has been established to help support funeral costs in the United States and her home country of Zambia: https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-ease-the-siwales-daughters-burden

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