



# MINING Navigating the Global Waters

## 2015 SME Annual Conference and Expo

Registration is currently underway. Don't miss out on this year's exciting technical and social programming. SME Foundation sponsorship opportunities are still available for our Annual Gala Dinner. Please join us to recognize all of the honored award and scholarship winners including the Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining awardee and the MEC Leadership, Organization, Student Chapter and Partnership Appreciation awardees.

**Preview Items to be auctioned on our site:**  
[smefaction.org/](http://smefaction.org/)

## Letter from the President

Happy New Year! The SME Annual Conference is fast approaching and I certainly hope that you are planning to join us in Denver, CO. There is a wide variety of technical sessions and programs, the Exhibit Hall will be filled and it's a great opportunity to connect with colleagues.



Bart Hyita, Foundation President

One of the highlights of Annual Meeting is the SME Foundation's Annual Gala Dinner. This year we are celebrating "I ♥ Mining." I personally love mining and can't wait to celebrate our industry. Along with our silent auction and casino night, live entertainment will be provided by *WashPark*, a local band with a wide variety of music. Join the Foundation Board of Trustees and volunteers for an evening of donor recognition, great food, fun prizes and entertainment. This year we're giving away five \$500 gift cards to Amazon. You must be present to win.

We also want to thank our Corporate Roundtable Partners for their significant contributions.

In order to ensure that our auction is truly meaningful, we need your donations (items or monetary). Please send them to:  
 SME Foundation  
 12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle  
 Englewood, CO 80112-4167.

Thank you for your continued support!

Best Regards,  
 Bart Hyita



Attendees have 5 chances to win a \$500 Amazon.com gift card!



Join the SME Foundation for its

# Annual Gala Dinner

**Sunday, February 15, 2015**

**6:00pm-7:00pm**  
 Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction

**7:00pm-11:00pm**  
 Dinner, Entertainment & Casino Games

**Centennial Ballroom**  
 Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center,  
 Denver, CO

### SME Foundation Executive Committee

Bart J. Hyita	President	2015
Barbara J. Arnold	SMEF Past President	2015
Dennis P. Bryan	Vice President	2015
C. Dale Elifrits	Secretary/Treasurer	2015
Bill Hancock	Member At-large	2015

# Minerals Education Coalition



There's a fun and easy way to support the work the MEC does on a daily basis. By liking us on Facebook and sharing our social media updates, you will spread the word about the importance of mining and minerals in our daily lives to your friends, who will then spread the word to their friends, and on and on. There's no better way to increase the MEC's impact and mission. Here's what to do:

If you're on Facebook, like us and share our updates with your Facebook friends.

If you're not on Facebook, go to <http://www.facebook.com/MineralsEducationCoalition> to view our Facebook page and keep up with our updates.

If you are on Twitter, follow us at [@MECEducation](https://twitter.com/MECEducation), and re-tweet our posts.

If you aren't on Twitter, go to <https://twitter.com/MECEducation> to view our Twitter feed.

On our Facebook page, you can read all about our recent outreach programs and see the volunteers who make them happen. For example, our December 4-6 Facebook posts highlighted the National Science Teachers Association in Long Beach, California.

California volunteers: SME member Mike Garska of Simbol Materials (on left), served as chair of this effort. Joshua Leurquin and Brandon Griffiths (on right) of Rio Tinto—Borates gave out 1500 mineral kits to participants.



## Upcoming Events:

2015 SME Annual  
Conference & Expo  
CMA 117th National  
Western Mining  
Conference  
Feb. 15-18, 2015  
Denver, Colorado

National Science  
Teachers Association  
Reno, NV  
October 22-24, 2015



## Join us at the ABET Program Evaluator Update

D. Elifrits and G. 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. For 2015, the SME PEV update training is Saturday afternoon, February 14, 2015. Please contact Mona Vandervoort ([vandervoort@smenet.org](mailto: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.
- [Read more](#) about the ABET Program Evaluator on the SME Foundation website.

## SME's Ph.D. Fellowship and Career Development Grant Program

SME's Education Sustainability Committee has developed a program to address the long-term challenges that threaten the sustainability of U.S. mining and mineral processing/extractive metallurgy academic degree granting programs. One of the paramount issues is the absence of a viable means (pipeline) to address the current number of faculty vacancies as well as the looming future labor deficiencies associated with retirements over the next decade. The problem associated with faculty scarcity is cumulative and extends from recruiting appropriate candidates and the ability to successfully complete a Ph.D. degree. The overall success rate of developing faculty from graduate school to tenure is challenging.

The Ph.D. Fellowship initiative focuses on providing financial support to encourage qualified candidates with industry experience and a desire to pursue an academic career with the means of acquiring a doctoral degree at a U.S.-accredited university in mining or extractive metallurgy/mineral processing.

The Career Grants program is intended to provide newly employed, tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professors with the financial support needed to better participate in activities, such as research, publication, and professional service, which are necessary to achieve tenure and promotion.

The program will be initiated in spring 2015 for implementation during the 2015/2016 academic year.

Read more about the program details and background in the February issue of [Mining Engineering](#)

### MEC Active in Florida

MEC exhibited at the National Science Teachers Association in Orlando, Florida.

Several SME members volunteered at the conference.

Interested in volunteering with MEC? Contact Rachel Grimes at [grimes@smcnet.org](mailto:grimes@smcnet.org) for more information.



### MEC Technical Session Coming to the SME Annual Meeting

Please be sure to attend the [MEC Technical Session](#) at the 2015 SME Annual Conference and Expo at 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 16. Session convener C. Dale Elifrits and co-conveners Isabelle (Izzy) Peterson and Mike Garska have developed an outstanding program titled, "Telling the Mining and Minerals Industry's Story - Successful Education and Public Outreach." The speakers at the session will highlight mining and minerals educational outreach programs from Caterpillar Global Mining, Newmont Mining, the Lowell Institute for Mineral Resources, Freeport-McMoRan Inc., the American Exploration and Mining Association (formerly NW Mining), CEDAR, and the University of Arizona Mining and Geological Engineering Student Chapter.

### New Strategic Direction for MEC

The MEC Committee has defined an exciting strategic direction for MEC educational materials. The MEC will position itself to be a clearinghouse for relevant K-12 (and general) education about minerals and mining. Existing materials will be vetted for peer-review, technical accuracy, industry relevance, state or federal educational standards, and grade level appropriateness. MEC will then host the best available materials on [www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org](http://www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org). MEC staff is creating a matrix of the overall available resources, identifying gaps, and targeting those gaps for future MEC educational material. Be sure to check out this month's article in [Mining Engineering magazine](#) for a look back, and a look forward, for MEC.

### Montana Tech and the SME Foundation: Working Together



Montana Technical University recently contributed to the Rong Yu Wan Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in 2009 with the intent to award dissertation to metallurgical graduate students. Montana Tech's generous support of this award brings us closer to recognizing a student with the potential to impact our industry. The Foundation recognized this gift in tribute to the following:

Sevket Acar  
Brian Arthur  
Jesse Bowden  
David Brosnahan  
Charles Bucknam  
Roger Cooper  
Meg Dietrich  
Aidan Giblett  
Adam House  
Hsin-Hsiung Huang  
Matthew Jeffrey

John Kinneberg  
Ronel Kappes  
Robin McCulloch  
Dave McLaren  
Frank Roberto  
Scott Rosenthal  
Scott Shuey  
Jack Tryon  
Larry Twidwell  
Courtney Young



**The Foundation of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration**

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The SME Foundation thanks our Corporate Roundtable Partners for their encouragement, support and assistance in creating a stronger industry around the world, developing tomorrow's professionals and leaders and strengthening relationships within our communities. To find out more or to lend your support to *Creating Global Prosperity: The Campaign for Mining*, please visit the Foundation website at <http://community.smenet.org/SMEFoundation/Campaign>.



“Our mission is to support scientific, technical, education and other activities that foster interchange and understanding concerning the responsible development of the world’s mineral resources, and further the professional disciplines serving the minerals industry.”

For additional information regarding the SME Foundation, please contact:  
AnnMarie Kochevar, Foundation Manager at 303-948-4239 or [kochevar@smenet.org](mailto:kochevar@smenet.org)