



“the key to the future”

The Foundation of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.

“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”

NEWS RELEASE

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Minerals Education Coalition to Advance SME’s Commitment to K-12 Education

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration and Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Foundation (SMEF), in response to a unanimous recommendation of an Ad-Hoc Education Task Force, announces the establishment of its new Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) to further unify and strengthen the development, production and distribution of credible and objective mineral education materials. It is envisioned that the Minerals Education Coalition will help to create an enlightened and supportive public that appreciates the importance of mining and minerals to their lives and their lifestyles.

SME’s core purpose, as stated in the SME Strategic Plan, is to be THE resource and advocate for the mining community. A critical component of this overall plan is to establish, maintain, and fund a comprehensive mining and minerals education program. The Minerals Education Coalition has been designed to provide direction and oversight of SME’s fact-based K-12 minerals education activities from development to distribution. The MEC is comprised of SME’s former GEM and Mii Programs and will also include curriculum enhancements, expansion to new audiences, and is intended to leverage strategic partnerships, alliances and collaborations. Free or low cost information and materials will continue to be provided to teachers and other education providers. A MEC Committee will provide guidance and oversight to ensure that appropriate goals and activities are identified and implemented. Review Committees will involve teachers and individuals from the mining industry to contribute their expertise in pedagogy and factual content. SME Members will be called upon as resources to help identify and deliver MEC initiatives in their local areas as MEC will work with SME local sections to expand community knowledge.

The general public needs to be constantly reminded that everything they depend on to maintain their standard of living is either made from minerals or relies on minerals for its production. The mining industry also needs to understand that the general public holds the key to their company’s social license to operate in their communities. A respectful relationship between these diverse groups requires a common bond to begin dialogue. K-12 curriculum can provide that forum. K-12 education provides an important formative stage in a student’s education, and the coursework to which students are exposed during this period influences their perception and understanding of the interconnectedness of activities around them now and into their adult life.

As stated by Dave Kanagy, SME’s Executive Director, “The integrated expansion of SME’s successful K-12 curriculum and volunteer efforts will now be fully merged and available to serve more teachers, thereby reaching more students, their families and the general public. As we move forward, we are committing our resources to including additional critical information in a variety of formats to help the public understand the importance of mining and minerals.”

For more information contact Sharon Schonhaut, MEC Manager, at (303) 948-4236 or schonhaut@smenet.org .

SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose more than 14,000 members represent all professionals serving the minerals industry in more than 85 countries. SME members are engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

12999 E. Adam Aircraft Cir.
Englewood, CO 80112-4167

www.smenet.org/foundation

P: +1.303.948.4200
F: +1.303.973.3845