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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **SME Foundation Announces the L&L Energy Scholarship Fund**

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) Foundation announces the establishment of the L&L Energy, Dr. Syd Peng Underground Coal Mining Scholarship Fund. This program was established to honor the significant contributions made by L&L Energy Director Dr. Syd S. Peng to the coal and energy industry.

“[L&L Energy](#) has pledged \$250,000 over the next five years for this scholarship,” said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. “The scholarship’s goal will be to increase international cooperation between professionals in mining and to prepare the next generation of leaders to meet the growing needs of the international energy industry.”

The scholarship will be awarded annually to one or more students, with preference being given to seniors and graduate students from Asia, as well as to applicants who desire employment in the Asian mining industry. L&L Chairman and CEO, Mr. Dickson Lee, commented, “As the international energy world, and specifically coal, continues to grow smaller, the need for bi-lingual and bi-culturally trained mining professionals has continued to rise. Our goal is to train and educate mining professionals from both the U.S. and China in hopes of increasing the level of proficiency and quality of candidates entering our industry.”

The scholarship honors the contributions made by Dr. Syd S. Peng who is known for his expertise in the Chinese coal industry and has consulted for the Chinese government on coal policy, as well as mine safety and standards. Dr. Peng is the Charles E. Lawall Chair of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University and is known internationally for his expertise in longwall mining.

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SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose more than 15,000 members represent all professions serving the minerals industry in more than 100 countries. SME members are engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

The SME Foundation’s 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.

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*SME exists to be THE resource and advocate for the mining community.  
For further details see [www.smenet.org/](http://www.smenet.org/).*