



Welcome to a time when the mining and minerals industries have never been more important. All around you world leaders and civilizations are calling for the solutions of a more mineral-rich future. Nations, corporations, and consumers have never been more concerned about where they'll get minerals from or if we'll have enough to supply the technologies and conveniences of the 21st century to which we've become accustom. If short supply seems unlikely, don't miss that the United States Congress has approved billions of dollars in spend by the Department of Energy and others to support research in critical minerals and development of resources and manufacturing. All around you, attentions are shifting to building shorter, more diverse, and more resilient supply chains. The good news is that we can bring that future to bear – but it will take years of continued hard work and a significantly increased focus on growth.

As always, minerals, metals, and energy resources will be at the foundation.

In 2022 the SME Foundation updated our vision and mission because we felt that we could do more to help the SME meet these needs. We created a new strategic plan that has charted an exciting future for the Foundation. **Our Vision is to inspire the next generation to meet the needs of a mineral dependent future for a better world. We will deliver this Vision through our Mission: attract and leverage resources for a sustainable mining industry through education and outreach.**

Working with the SME's Strategic Committees, we aim to support the SME's Strategic Plan to focus on the four areas: Industry Workforce, Industry Innovation, Association Growth, and Environmental Stewardship. Through programs that the Foundation supports, like the PhD and Career Fellowship Grants, the Mineral Education Coalition, ABET accreditation, the Mining in Society Merit Badge, and many others, we are meeting this plan and addressing the needs of our industry and our world. Further, we are looking to increase engagement within the communities that we serve by improving outreach and education. The Foundation believes that people should know how minerals and fuels are utilized all around them. We believe that the products our constituents we make provide for a better world.

During my two-year Presidential term, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such an impressive and passionate team. The Foundation Trustees and Staff are some of the most fun and invigorating professionals I've worked with at the Society. The Trustees are a team of twenty-nine industry professionals from every piece of our business who represent their companies and communities and who work hard to bring our Vision and Mission to life. The SME Foundation Staff make this possible through the guidance of our programs. Most importantly, it's our corporate donors including our 15 Corporate Roundtable Partners and the nearly 1500 individual donors, including 76 who give at the VIP level (+\$1000), that provide us the resources to support our critical programs. Thank you to all of our supporters.

If you are wondering what you can do to be more involved, I have a simple three-part plan for each of us:

1. **Lead:** Hold yourself and your colleagues to high standards; represent our industry well and focus on your individual and organizational commitment to the Strategic Plan.

2. **Advocate:** Communicate to your friends, family, and colleagues the importance of our industry and the work that we do. Encourage your colleagues and your company to get involved, to come to local section meetings, to be leaders.
3. **Give:** Be generous with your time and money. We are a volunteer led organization and we accomplish our mission through your support. We will not succeed without you.

This is how we will succeed together. This is how we will meet the needs of a mineral-rich future and promote a better world. Through outreach, education, and fundraising we are bringing our Foundation's Vision to life. You are all part of this every time that you engage in the mission of the Foundation. Please, continue to talk to family and friends about the importance of our industry and the role we play in everything from macroeconomic supply chains to national security. Please work to inspire colleagues and coworkers to do their best work and engage in our communities. And please continue to give generously with your time and your money to the programs of the Foundation.

Opportunities to make a difference are abundant. Keep up the great work.

Best,

Tom