



Dear SME Members and SME Foundation Friends,

The mission of the SME Foundation is to be the source of funding for education and outreach of SME and the community it serves. Each of the SME Foundation's programs provide strategic solutions to the challenges of the mining industry. In 2018 the Foundation raised \$1.13 million and with the positive investment returns, total funding was \$1.64 million!

As the SME Foundation President for the next two years, I would like to thank all of the supporters of the Foundation. As valued donors, you recognize the importance of providing the necessary funding to ensure the continued success of the Foundation programs. The Foundation Board of Trustees volunteer their time and expertise to support the Foundation's mission and programs. The SME staff are also to be commended for the dedication and service that they provide to SME members and our industry. Working together, we all contribute to provide strategic solutions to the challenges of the mining industry.

The SME Foundation programs each focus on addressing specific challenges that the mining industry currently faces. Your companies, and you as industry leaders, may also be facing these challenges. As many in our industry have either retired or will be shortly, the need for a skilled workforce with the necessary training is in high demand. Through the Foundation, scholarships are available to students pursuing degrees applicable to the industry. The Foundation-supported programs of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and the Professional Engineer (PE) Exam ensure that education programs meet standards that prepare graduates for successful careers in the industry and ensure professional quality academic standards are met.

As the demand for college-educated workers continues to rise, so does the need for rebuilding the faculty pipeline at the thirteen current mining schools. With the projected faculty leadership gap due to senior faculty retirements, there is a risk of not enough tenured faculty to build strong, enduring programs. The Ph.D. Fellowship and Academic Career Development Grant Program was developed in 2014 to incentivize engineers to pursue

academic careers and to make it possible for Ph.D.s to achieve tenured positions at ABET-accredited schools. To date, three Ph.D. Fellowship awardees have received their Ph.D.s with one more expected in June, and three Career Development Grant recipients have achieved tenure as university faculty, with one more expected this summer. As a result, the program is successfully producing positive

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outcomes. Each of the Ph.D. recipients will be accepting faculty positions at U.S. mining schools.

We are all too familiar with the lack of true understanding and a positive perception of our industry by the general public. The Foundation's Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) works diligently to close this gap. The MEC's mission is to identify, produce and disseminate fact-based K-12 minerals education lessons and activities and to inform and educate the general public about the importance of mining in their everyday lives. The MEC achieves this mission by conducting multiple national outreaches per year and by providing ways to increase interest and education about mining. The Move Mining and Move Mining Next Gen competitions have addressed these needs and attracted involvement from people inside, as well as outside, of our industry.

MEC also strives to be THE clearinghouse of all mineral and mining education materials. They continually work to establish what is available and what needs to be developed to provide resources and teaching materials that meet STEM requirements.

The Miners Give Back

program is creating an Annual Competition for community-related humanitarian service projects completed by an SME Section. The committee is currently working on guidelines, an evaluation rubric and a timeline to launch for this competition. This program will further connect the mining industry with the local communities.

The success of these valuable SME Foundation programs is dependent on the generosity and commitment of our past and future donors. Fundraising projections over the next few years require \$1.9M annually to maintain current programs and meet the increasing requirements of the Ph.D. Fellowship and Career Development Grant program. Although a daunting challenge, I am optimistic that with the continued support of our current donors and outreach to new supporters it is achievable! Through an investment in the SME Foundation, we can meet fundraising goals that will continue to provide the education, outreach and professional development that strengthens our SME community and mining industry for years to come. I look forward to working with you all during the next two years on this endeavor.

With sincere thanks and gratitude,

Mary B. Koyai

