



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope your summer is going well, and you've been able to take some time to explore new adventures and enjoy time with family and friends.

Thank you to all of our Corporate Roundtable Partners (CRPs) for their generous support and continued belief in the mission of the SME Foundation and the Foundation's effort to inspire and educate the next generation of miners.

Thank you to South32 and Schlamb, the newest CRP members. To learn more about all the CRP members, please check out the SME Foundation webpage.

Half of our support comes from smaller corporate contributions and individual donors, whose generosity plays an equally vital role in sustaining our programs and initiatives. Their commitment helps us amplify our reach and continue making a meaningful impact in the mining community with the number of important programs receiving support.

One key area SMEF supports was discussed in the Spring 2025 Newsletter, in an article written by Rick Honaker. The article highlighted the importance of ABET accreditation on ensuring consistency of the mining, geological metallurgical engineering degrees around the country. ABET is critical in ensuring graduates from all the academic mining programs are ready to go to work and meet the variety of challenges facing the industry today. If you are passionate about the success of our mining schools and students, please consider directly supporting ABET with a donation.

The SME Foundation is holding two golf tournaments again this year. Registration is open for both events. The first event is being held in West Virginia on September 26 at The Greenbrier Resort. This tournament is in its second year. The 6th Annual Arizona SMEF Golf Tournament is being held November 21, 2025 once again, at the Gold Canyon Golf Resort. These are both fantastic venues so please consider attending. You'll have a fun time and if you can't play, please consider being a sponsor.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Andy Cole
SME Foundation President



2025 Golf Tour

SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, September 26, 2025
White Sulphur Springs, WV | The Greenbrier



Title Sponsor



Friday, November 21, 2025
Gold Canyon, AZ | Gold Canyon Golf Resort



Sponsored by







BE THE FIRST TO KNOW – Sign up to be on the early bird registration list!

Learn more at
smefoundation@smenet.org

Sponsorship Opportunities Available



SME Foundation Leadership

Andrew P. Cole	President
Peter M. Haarala	President-Elect
Thomas C. Rauch	SMEF Past President
Catherine A. Joyner	Corporate Giving Chair
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MEC SUPPORTS SME SECTION OUTREACH EFFORTS



Alan Cram talking to Colorado Science Conference attendees

This year, MEC offered SME Sections additional support to encourage local outreach. If SME Sections attend their state science teacher conferences or other select local outreach events, MEC will pay for their booth fees and provide flyers and posters they can give out at the event. So far, SME Sections have attended four local events as part of this program.

The Colorado Section MEC committee attended the Colorado Science Conference on October 25, 2024. The SME Central Wyoming Section coordinated with MEC to support the Section's participation in two days of events for high school students, and an evening special event for families in May 2025. The SME Northern Minnesota Section presented two sessions for teachers at the Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop on June 17.

This fall, more SME Sections are planning to attend their state's science teacher conferences with MEC's support. Please contact MEC at MEC@smenet.org to find out how an SME Section can participate in this program!

DR. BARBARA ARNOLD PRESENTS IDEAS FOR ENCOURAGING MORE WOMEN INTO MINING CAREERS

Dr. Barbara Arnold, Chair of Mining Engineering, Penn State University, spoke at the National Outreach Collaboration (NOC) meeting June 17 on "Careers and outreach to female audiences in mining. How to generate more interest in mining careers." The group of 26 mining and minerals educational outreach providers then discussed Dr. Arnold's ideas as well

as others to consider when conducting mining career-related outreach to female audiences.

Dr. Arnold's presentation will be available soon on the National Outreach Collaboration (NOC) Community page on the SME Community.

VULCAN MATERIALS: BUILDING FUTURES THROUGH EDUCATION

Since 1994, Vulcan Materials Company has been a driving force in K–12 education and community engagement. As the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates, Vulcan doesn't just build infrastructure—it builds futures.

In 2024 alone, Vulcan contributed more than **\$1.3 million** to K–12 education, including **\$216,000 in Matching Gifts**, and nearly **\$1 million** to higher education. Their support includes **200 Adopt-a-School partnerships**, **200 scholarships** and **\$660,000 in scholarship funding**.

Through its long-standing partnership with the SME Foundation and support of the Minerals Education Coalition (MEC), Vulcan has donated **\$500,000** in lifetime contributions, helping bring mining and earth sciences to life for students nationwide.

Each year, more than **25,000 students** tour Vulcan facilities, connecting classroom learning with real-world applications. Vulcan also champions STEM education through programs like the **National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) Conference** and **Scouting initiatives**.

Vulcan's commitment to education reflects its broader mission: to inspire curiosity, leadership, and learning in the next generation.



B.J. Wilsford, Plant Manager at Vulcan's Franklin Quarry in Tennessee, teaches local students about quarry operations, equipment, and safety

EDITION 9 OF THE SME PE STUDY GUIDE IS COMPLETE



NCEES
advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors

The SME PE Committee completed Edition 9 of the SME PE Study Guide. The Guide has been published continuously since around 1980, coinciding with the 7-year cycle of updating the MMP (Mining / Mineral Processing) PE exam. The editors who led the writing of the Study Guide are Gen Sutton PE, past Chair of the SME PE Committee and Kori Darby PE, Chair, shown here at MINEXCHANGE 2025. SME PE Committee PE's who have not worked on the actual MMP exam, wrote the Study Guide. Many thanks to Gen and Kori, and to the professional engineers PEs of the committee who contributed questions and reviewed them for the practice exam contained in the Guide.

The final step in the MMP exam's 7-year update cycle, known as the Professional Activities and Knowledge Study (PAKS), has been completed. This step involved assembling a Cut Score Panel of approximately 15 PEs, who took the updated version of the PE exam scheduled for administration beginning in October 2025.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 PHD FELLOWSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS



Dr. Deniz Talan, 2025 recipient of the SME Freeport-McMoRan Career Development Grant, is an Assistant Professor of Mining Engineering at **West Virginia University (WVU)**, specializing in the sustainable recovery of critical minerals from mine waste using environmentally responsible separation technologies.



Chandima Subasinghe, 2025 recipient of the SME PhD Fellowship, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Energy and Mineral Engineering at The **Pennsylvania State University**. He specializes in mineral processing, hydrometallurgy, and project

management, with a focus on sustainable extraction of critical minerals from geothermal brines. His research has led to patented and patent-pending technologies for extracting lithium and converting ilmenite to synthetic rutile.

Since 2015, these programs have awarded \$8,100,000 to 42 individuals. Thirteen recipients of the Career Development Grant have achieved tenure at their university, 14 PhD Fellowship recipients have earned their PhD, and 10 PhD/Grant recipients are in progress working towards their goals. These programs are funded by members of the SME Foundation Corporate Roundtable Partnership, as well as donations from SME members and from the Foundation Gala and the two Foundation golf tournaments.

ABET ACTIVITY UPDATE

Submitted by: Rick Honaker



The SME ABET Visitor Selection Committee (VSC) has successfully completed the selection and nomination of seven Program Evaluators (PEVs) for the upcoming fall 2025 accreditation cycle. These PEVs will conduct evaluation visits to six academic programs offering ABET-accredited degrees. All site visits will be conducted in person, with two of the evaluations taking place within the United States, and the remaining four being international visits;

one of which will be an *initial general review* of a mining engineering program seeking ABET accreditation for the first time.

Program and Discipline Overview

The programs under review span across three key SME disciplines: **three Mining Engineering programs, two Geological Engineering programs and one Geoscience program**, which has requested evaluation under the ABET General Criteria.

Program Evaluator Candidate Processing

Three new applicants received ABET approval appointment as SME PEVs. They completed the required training, including a face-to-face session designed to prepare them for the expectations and responsibilities of PEVs, and were assigned observer visits for the 2025 review cycle.

Challenges Identified

Although this year's review cycle involves fewer programs than in some previous years, the evaluator selection process highlighted several pressing issues:

Departure of Experienced Evaluators due to retirements or professional conflicts, **Conflicts of Interest** when candidates were unavailable due to institutional or professional conflicts of interest and **Limited Evaluator Pool** across all SME-represented disciplines.

Future Outlook and Call to Action

A forward-looking assessment of upcoming ABET accreditation cycles reveals an increasing need for qualified evaluators: **13 PEVs will be needed for the 2027–2028 cycle and 16 PEVs will be needed for the 2028–2029 cycle.**

Moreover, the addition of two new programs—**B.S. in Mining Engineering at the University of Texas El Paso** and **B.S. in Mining Engineering Technology at Bluefield State**—is anticipated during this timeframe. Given these trends, it is imperative that SME intensify efforts to **recruit and mentor new PEV candidates** and to identify and prepare individuals for leadership roles within ABET to ensure continued SME representation and influence.

The VSC and SME staff have made important progress in preparing for the fall 2025 review cycle, but sustaining and strengthening the PEV program will require ongoing attention and community involvement. Members interested in serving as program evaluators or learning more about ABET leadership opportunities should contact **Mona Vandervoort** for more information. Your engagement is vital to maintaining the high standards of ABET-accredited programs in mining, geological, and geoscience engineering.



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

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to 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, please visit smefoundation.org.



The mission of the SME Foundation is to attract and leverage resources for a sustainable mining industry through education and outreach. Learn more at:

303.948.4200 or smefoundation@smenet.org