

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to start by first thanking Tom Rauch for his leadership as the SME Foundation President over the last two years. I would also like to thank outgoing Trustees, J. Steven Gardner, Steve Holmes, Marc Le Vier and Bob Washnock for their years of service to the SME Foundation.

I am looking forward to my term as Foundation President. It is such a dynamic and exciting time to be in

the mining industry. The industry entered 2025 with a sense of optimism due to regulatory relief, streamlined permitting and a focus on strengthening domestic production of minerals. What a great opportunity as we currently attract new people to the industry and show them the wide variety of rewarding careers available.

Thank you to the sponsors and attendees who joined us at the SME Foundation Gala Dinner in Denver this year. We had over 500 people at the Gala supporting the Foundation, participating in the silent auction and most importantly helping kickoff MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME Annual Conference & Expo. The night culminated with 27 SME Foundation scholarships awarded, totaling over \$130,000.

As the year progresses, the SME Foundation looks to increase awareness of the importance of minerals and mining in our daily lives. The Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) has a wealth of information available on their website. The Foundation is also working to improve collaboration with local SME Sections. If your section would like a presentation from the Foundation, please reach out to a Trustee or Megan Martin, the SME Foundation Manager, to make arrangements.

Thank you and here's to a great 2025!

Andy Cole  
SME Foundation President



# 2025 Golf Tour

## SAVE THE DATES!

### Friday, September 26, 2025

White Sulphur Springs, WV  
The Greenbrier



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### Friday, November 21, 2025



Gold Canyon, AZ  
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## SME Foundation Leadership

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## NATIONAL OUTREACH COLLABORATION CONTINUES TO LEARN ABOUT MINING EDUCATION OUTREACH

The National Outreach Collaboration (NOC) met on February 24 at MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME Annual Conference & Expo. The first speaker, Michelle Lee, Vice President Mining & Market Development, Westward, shared the *No Mining, Know Mining* website ([nominatingknowmining.com](http://nominatingknowmining.com)) that presents state mining and natural resources in an interactive map of the U.S., as well as lists of mining-related agencies, organizations and schools. The second speaker, Dr. Haydon Mort, CEO of Geologize, shared the Geologize education resources at [training.geologize.org](http://training.geologize.org) that use the science of



brain physiology to teach geology and mining professionals how to communicate with the public most effectively.

The NOC 2nd quarter meeting will be held virtually in June 2025 with a special presentation by Barb Arnold, Professor of Practice at Penn State. If you are interested in joining our quarterly discussions about mining outreach, please go to <https://forms.gle/YtLpWYWhGzyyiFSc9> or contact SMEF at [sme.foundation@smenet.org](mailto:sme.foundation@smenet.org).

## MEC K-12 MINING AND MINERALS TEACHER WORKSHOP AT MINEXCHANGE



### Securing PPE for Electrowinning Copper

At the MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME Annual Conference & Expo, 28 Colorado educators had a chance to talk with enthusiastic mining professionals and receive educational resources for teaching about the importance of mining and minerals.

The workshop was planned and implemented in collaboration with outreach staff from the University of Arizona School of Mining and Mineral Resources, led by Chris Earnest, with help from Mario Munoz, Dan Moreno and Gaurav Singh; the Colorado Mining Association Education Foundation's Ryan Miles, Sandi Sullivan and Maura Sullivan; and SME

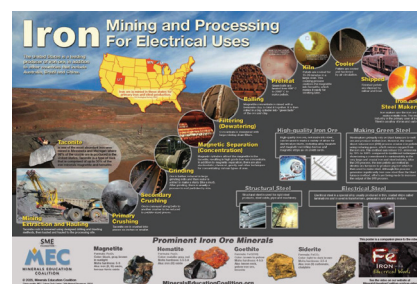
members Kurt Doran, Wendi Cooksey, Lisa Rudstrom, Jeremy Diehlmann, Pam Wilkinson, and Katie Kosloski.

The teachers had a dynamic educational experience, talking with professionals, asking questions about career opportunities for their students, and trying out four hands-on activities to take back to their classrooms. Exhibitors from Colorado School of Mines, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Barr Engineering, Hexagon, FLS, and SRK Consulting Services hosted the teachers in the Expo Hall. Teachers received SME and MEC resources focused on careers in the mining industry, posters and booklets, and a rock and mineral kit for their classrooms. One teacher commented, "It took me from knowing almost nothing about mining and minerals to having a much stronger foundation of the field and career paths it has to offer."

Special thank you to Dr. C. Dale and Kathleen B. Elifrits for so graciously sponsoring the workshop.

## MEC IRON MINING AND PROCESSING FOR ELECTRICAL USES POSTER UPDATED

The MEC Iron Mining and Processing for Electrical Uses poster has been updated and reprinted. The update includes newly added information about making green steel through the direct reduced iron (DRI) process. The updated posters are available on the MEC Store at [MineralsEducationCoalition.org/store/iron-mining-and-processing-for-electrical-uses-poster](http://MineralsEducationCoalition.org/store/iron-mining-and-processing-for-electrical-uses-poster).



## MEC ATTENDS NSTA IN PHILADELPHIA

MEC attended the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) National Conference held in Philadelphia, PA, March 27-29, 2025. The MEC's booth was a major highlight, drawing significant interest from many educators. With the generous support of donors and volunteers, MEC provided rock and mineral kits and educational materials to excited teachers who visited the booth. Thanks to our dedicated supporters, all the materials provided were designed to help teachers enhance their Earth Science education units. The planning of the event was chaired by Katie Kosloski of Luck Stone, "... we proudly distributed over 1,200 Rock and Mineral Kits to educators from across the US and Canada. This initiative is crucial in providing teachers with the necessary resources to inspire the next generation to understand the importance of minerals and mining in our everyday lives. Thank you so much to our sponsors and volunteers who helped bring this to life," Katie Kosloski said. Special thanks to our sponsors: Luck Stone, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Inc. and Dr. C. Dale and Kathleen B. Elifrits.

## SME FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION RAISES MONEY FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The SME Foundation hosted a Silent Auction during the SMEF Gala Dinner at MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME Annual Conference & Expo. Thank you to **McCarl's Technical Services** for sponsoring the auction and thank you to everyone who bid; more than \$31,000 was raised from the Silent Auction this year to help fund important Foundation programs!

*Thank you to the following individuals and businesses that donated items for the auction:*

Adventure Mining Company	Epiroc	Lodge Casino
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Casting Co	Hugh & Nadia Miller	Shape Space
Charlie Zimmerman	In-N-Out Burger	Steve Gardner and Karen Wilson
In Memory of Clancy Wendt	J.H. Fletcher	Steve Holmes
Compass Minerals - Alex	Jack Thompson	The Cheesecake Factory
Hesketh	Jay Nopola	The Doe Run Company
Core Natural Resources	Jill Nelson	The Escape Game
Crumb Cookies	Jim Metsa	Tom O'Neil
In Memory of Dr. Roshan B.	Jim Wickens	Tom Rauch
Bhappu	Kat Tew and Family	Top Golf Centennial
Dale Elifrits	Katie Kosloski	Total Wines & More
David Hammond	Kendra Scott Jewelry	Weir Minerals
Denver Museum of Nature	Kronke Sports and	Wendi Cooksey
and Science	Entertainment	Will and Pam Wilkinson
Denver Zoo	Kurt Kost	Wines for Humanity
Dorothy Snowden	Larry Evans	
Doug Silver	Laurence James	



## CRITICAL ROLE OF SME-AIME IN ABET ACCREDITATION

*Submitted by: Rick Q. Honaker*



The current and future demand for critical materials can be found in the headlines of major national and international news every day. Substantial increases in production of high purity critical metals, like copper, will be needed within the next decade. A significant obstacle to meeting the increased production demands is human capital including mining, geological and metallurgical engineers, have been educated and trained to meet the challenges of safe, sustainable economic extraction and processing. According to a Deloitte study (2023), nearly 50% of the mining engineers in the U.S. will reach retirement age within the next decade.

At the same time, future mining professionals need more advanced skills than ever. Robotics, artificial intelligence and big data are becoming essential tools in safe, efficient, and sustainable mining. Yet, universities face declining enrollment, tighter budgets and pressure to reduce credit hours. This makes it harder to deliver the broad and deep education mining engineers now need.

This is where SME-AIME plays a critical role through the accreditation process. ABET Accreditation criterion requires that students complete a minimum number of math, science, and engineering credit hours. Program Specific Criterion specifies subject matter that must be included in the curriculum. The Program Specific Criterion for mining, geological and extractive metallurgical/mineral processing engineering and geology programs are the responsibility of SME-AIME. The criterion is created by the SME ABET committee based on feedback from industry and academic members and submitted to the SME-AIME Board of Directors (BOD) for approval. Program Evaluators appointed by the BOD ensure that the graduates of each program have been educated and trained with the skills needed to meet the demands they will face in a career in the mining industry.

As the demand for critical materials grows, so does the need for qualified professionals. SME-AIME's leadership in defining and upholding education standards is vital, but success will require the united effort of industry, academia and professional organizations. The future of mining depends on it.





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

12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle  
Englewood, CO 80112

[www.smefoundation.org](http://www.smefoundation.org)

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## THANK YOU!

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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](mailto:smefoundation@smenet.org)