



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear SME Members and SME Foundation Friends,

Happy New Year! 2024 has all the makings to be our best year yet. The industry is busy and growing and so is our community. We have a lot of plans for a busy year and look forward to sharing them with you as we work to provide for the needs of a mineral-rich future for a better world.

Looking back on 2023, we've had a lot of accomplishments to celebrate. We awarded 22 scholarships totaling \$96,500, awarded one new PhD Fellowship and two new Career Development Grants, helped 766 Scouts earn their Mining in Society Merit Badges at the BSA National Jamboree, held a sold out golf outing at Gold Canyon in November and exhibited at both the National Science Teacher Association Conference and the American School Counselor Association, just to name a few. I want to thank all of our Corporate Roundtable Partners, donors, volunteers and trustees for all of your time, energy, and passion this year – you made this all possible. Thank you for helping us accomplish our mission through education and outreach.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at MINEXCHANGE 2024 coming up in Phoenix, and of course at the Gala on Sunday, February 25. We have a great Fiesta-themed night planned including live music, a lively after-party and the best silent auction in the whole show! Make sure you reach out to Megan Martin, SME Foundation Manager, to reserve a table for your organization. If you are coming on an individual ticket, please consider our new "Friend of the Foundation" tickets which include a small contribution to the Foundation as well as attendance at the Gala.

We are very excited for 2024, both for the industry and for the future of the Foundation. Thank you for being part of it.

Best,

Tom Rauch
SME Foundation President

FIESTA TIME!

Please join the SME Foundation for its
Annual Gala Dinner and Silent Auction

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown
 6:00 pm-7:00 pm | Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction
 7:00 pm-8:30 pm | Dinner Program
 8:30 pm-10:30 pm | Entertainment and Dancing in the Cantina
Dress: Business or Fiesta Attire

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SECTION AND MEMBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH



MEC is providing Outreach Toolkits to SME sections to use in conducting mining outreach events. The toolkit includes MEC's updated resources, including several MEC posters, Mineral Baby cards and printouts, the new SME Exploring Mining Careers Booklet, and Earth

Science Week postcards and flyers. Seven SME sections have received toolkits at their community events. If your section would like to receive the MEC Outreach Toolkit to use for community outreach, please contact Akudo Nwokeukwu at nwokeukwu@smenet.org.

Also, the MEC website includes free materials and resources specifically to help SME members enhance minerals education outreach in their local communities. Visit MineralsEducationCoalition.org/sme-outreach-resources for more information.

NATIONAL OUTREACH COLLABORATION HAVING A GREAT FIRST YEAR

Recognizing the need to build a cohesive, supportive mining outreach community, the National Outreach Collaboration (NOC), a program of MEC, in partnership with the University of Arizona School of Mining and Mineral Resources, brings together professionals and volunteers from universities, mining associations, industries, and SME sections to share ideas and best practices about the future of mining.

With an average attendance of 30 participants, NOC has hosted one in-person and three virtual quarterly discussion-based meetings featuring data presentations from research studies conducted at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) National Conferences, at the University of Arizona and at the Critical Materials Institute, on how to leverage collaborations and community assets to improve outreach. NOC quarterly discussion/resources/notes are posted on the NOC Community Page on the SME website. To participate, contact Akudo Nwokeukwu at nwokeukwu@smenet.org.

NSTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN KANSAS CITY A SUCCESS

MEC staff and volunteers distributed 1,000 free rock and mineral kits at the National Science Teaching Association conference in Kansas City. They also handed out additional free educational materials to help teachers educate their students on the importance of minerals and mining in daily life. **Thank you to FLS, Martin Marietta and Dale & Kathy Elifrits for sponsoring this event.**

MEC also provided an hour-long presentation titled "Transition to Green Energy is Powered by Earth Scientists and Engineers." Delivered by Wendi Cooksey, with development assistance from Dale Elifrits, the program explained the critical role of earth scientists and engineers in the energy transition. Oreos were used to exemplify the ubiquity of minerals in our lives, and the SME *Jobs of Tomorrow* video series was highlighted to make teachers aware of the high-tech jobs offered by the mining industry.

The next NSTA Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado, March 20-23, 2024. MEC is looking for companies to sponsor our booth. To support this effort, contact Megan Martin at martin@smenet.org.

MEC K-12 PILOT OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE

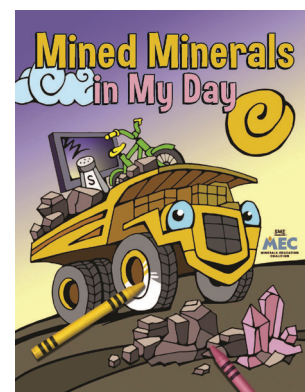


MEC's work on the K-12 pilot program has resulted in nine classroom presentations in the second half of 2023. The presentations were delivered by members of the Colorado SME Section. The two-year pilot program will successfully end in Colorado in May 2024 and

will transition to Utah K-12 schools for the 2024/2025 school year, focusing on SME members and University of Utah students visiting classrooms in many different schools.

MEC RELEASES NEW COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK FOR KIDS

The new *Mined Minerals in My Day* coloring and activity book will be available for sale at the SME Bookstore during MINEXCHANGE 2024. The 16-page coloring book is designed for children grades K-2 (ages 5-8). It provides a fun, hands-on way for young children to learn more about the importance of mined minerals in their daily lives. Children can color pages about mined minerals in their meals, homes, and communities. They can color a surface and an underground mine, and enjoy a word search, a word scramble and more. QR codes lead to more K-2 activities and information on the MEC website. This is a fun opportunity for young students to observe mineral shapes, understand simple mining-related concepts and explore the importance of mined minerals in all of our lives. Be sure to get one for the child in your life when you are at MINEXCHANGE 2024. The book will also be available online in the SME and MEC stores starting March 1.



SME MINING/MINERAL PROCESSING EXAM RESULTS



NCEES
advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors

Submitted by Dr. Andrew P. Schissler, PE

The results from the last Mining/Mineral Processing PE

Examination held in October, 2023 are 43 examinees took the test with an overall passing rate of 67%. Thirty-four were first time examinees and nine repeat. The 67% passing rate compares to an historical 34-year average of 57%. The SME PE Review Course for September, 2023 was attended by 23. The ratio of short course attendance to exam attendance of 23/43 or 54%, is very close to prior years.

ABET ACTIVITY UPDATE

Submitted by C. Dale Elifrits
ABET Chair - Visitor Selection Committee



SME members who volunteer as trained ABET Program Evaluators (PEVs) have again completed a campus degree program evaluation visit cycle successfully, including new PEV observation (practice) visits. Thanks to all these dedicated SME member volunteers! SME PEVs visited three mining engineering degree programs and three geological engineering degree programs. Five new PEVs who had finished all training completed their required observation visits. The availability of these new PEVs will ease the PEV assignments for the 2024 cycle.

The next important SME event in support of our ABET degree program accreditation responsibilities is the **Annual General ABET Information and Training Session** that will occur at MINEXCHANGE 2024 on Saturday, February 24 at the Phoenix Convention Center. This program will start with lunch at noon (reservations are required; contact Mona Vandervoort at vandervoort@smenet.org by February 9). After lunch we will work through a number of case studies from past campus PEV visits as a method to review the ABET General Criteria and our Program Criteria as well as their applications. This program is open to all volunteers who are interested in becoming ABET degree program evaluators (PEVs) and all others who are interested in the process of degree program accreditation, including faculty members, administrators and industry advisory committee members.

SME CELEBRATES TWO PHD FELLOWSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT GRANT SUCCESSES

Congratulations to Dr. Pedram Roghanchi and Dr. Heather Lammers on successfully completing their SME grant programs.



In the fall of 2023, **Dr. Pedram Roghanchi** successfully completed the Career Development Grant Program that he started with SME in 2021. As a result, Dr. Roghanchi joined the Mining Engineering Department at the University of Kentucky as an associate professor. Dr. Roghanchi's expertise includes mine health and safety, automation, and subsurface ventilation.

Prior to UK, Dr. Roghanchi worked as an assistant professor of mineral engineering at New Mexico Tech.



Dr. Heather Lammers received her Ph.D. in Mining and Earth Systems Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines after receiving a PhD Fellowship from SME in 2017. Her dissertation focused on tailings dewatering and mine closure and her ongoing research is in the areas of in situ tailings dewatering and multi-criteria decision analyses for mine waste and water management. Heather accepted a faculty position at the

Colorado School of Mines in January 2023 as a teaching assistant professor in the Mining Engineering Department.

2024 Golf Tour

SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024

White Sulphur Springs, WV
The Greenbrier

Sponsored by

November 2024

Gold Canyon, AZ
Gold Canyon Golf Resort

Learn more by contacting smefoundation@smenet.org
Sponsorship Opportunities Available



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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.



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