Letter from the President

Dear SME Members and Friends,

As 2017 comes to an end, I reflect upon the achievements of the SME Foundation. In this season, I am thankful for all of your generous contributions to the programs that the SME Foundation supports. I am very grateful for all of your support and generosity without which none of this would be possible. Together we have accomplished numerous improvements for the industry.

The education and outreach that we strive to promote extends throughout the programs you have supported. The Minerals Education Coalition and the Move Mining and Next Gen competitions have led to a wider range of individuals who are enthusiastic about positively changing the perception of mining. The ABET and PE programs that you support help to better prepare future graduates and ensure higher standards of professionals in our industry. For those who aspire to pursue a career in the mining profession, the SME Foundation provides numerous scholarships. In partnership with Engineers Without Borders, the Miners Give Back program allows for engineers to positively impact small-scale infrastructure projects in countries in need.

Our greatest need still lies in funding the Ph.D. Fellowship and Career Development Grant program which addresses the threat of losing tenured professors and the decline of an academic community of mining professionals. You can continue to make a difference with a year-end contribution to the SME Foundation that will benefit these programs and have an effect on the future of our industry.

I wish you all the best during this season of giving and joy. I hope to see you all at the 2018 SME Annual Conference & Expo in Minneapolis.

Best Regards,

Bill Hancock

SME Foundation Executive Committee

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To donate to the SME Foundation, please visit us at: www.smefoundation.org
ABET Accreditation News

All of the degree programs that are to be visited for accreditation evaluations this fall have been assigned SME-trained program evaluators. Thanks to these SME volunteers who invest their time, effort, talents and professionalism in this important service.

The ad hoc committee consisting of Will Wilkinson, Jon Price and Dale Elifrits, chair, shared the draft of geology degree program criteria for ABET accreditation of these programs with the SME Board of Directors at the mid-year meeting. This committee was appointed at the annual meeting to develop these program criteria as SME moves forward as the Interim Lead Society for Applied and Natural Science Commission of ABET for accreditation of geology degree programs.

These draft program criteria are based on ASBOG “Task Analysis” data and AIPG studies of what constitutes strong geological science degree programs, along with counsel from professionals and university faculty members. The draft criteria are available for review by state boards for licensure for geologists, interested professional societies, and others.
National Science Teachers Association Regional Conferences

The 2017 National Science Teachers Association regional conferences are underway. MEC staff and SME members and volunteers are talking with teachers and are providing free mineral kits in Baltimore (October 5-7), Milwaukee (November 9-11), and New Orleans (November 30-December 2). NSTA area conferences reach around 2,000 educators. Be sure to visit www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org and click the colorful buttons at the bottom of the home page to follow MEC’s Facebook and Twitter accounts to see this outreach in action!

Video entries for the 2017 Move Mining or Move Mining Next Gen competitions are being accepted through November 15. Now is the time to share the concept videos with the world. Voting continues through December 13 for People’s Choice Award in both contests. All videos will be posted online at www.MoveMining.org and www.MoveMiningNextGen.org for the world to see and for public vote. This is your opportunity to give your opinion and to share the message by encouraging others to vote as well. While both competitions engage individuals and teams from around the world using technology, creativity and innovation to share their ideas on how to positively change or “move” the public’s perception of mining, the second annual Move Mining competition is geared to college students, professionals, industry- and non-industry adults, and the new Move Mining Next Gen competition is for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. For more information, go to: www.MoveMining.org www.MoveMiningNextGen.org

Update on the Certified Mine Safety Professional Program

The Board of the International Academy of Mine Safety and Health of SME met on Sept. 28, 2017 at SME headquarters. The Board discussed several issues, the main one being that the program and policy to be finalized regarding re-certification of the Certified Mine Safety Professional (CMSP) credential. SME is honored to have acquired the CMSP mine safety program including the 352 people who are certified. The certification is a worldwide standard for professionalism in mine safety and health. SME will be strengthening the excellent program seeking accreditation in 2018. Other activities for the program include the activation of the certification panel that will consist of subject matter experts in mine safety and health. The panel will be writing questions and formatting the first examination for administration in 2018 to people desiring to achieve the CMSP. The panel will begin its work in October 2017. Please contact Dr. Andrew P. Schissler PE, CMSP coordinator at schissler@smenet.org with any questions.
Thank You!

The SME Foundation thanks 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 the Foundation website at www.smefoundation.org.