



NEWS RELEASE – June 3, 2019

SME announces recipients of 2019 mining academic grants

Program supports Ph.D. Fellowships and Mining School Faculty Development

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME) and the SME Foundation are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Ph.D. Fellowship and the Academic Career Development Grants. The objective of the grant program is to help rebuild the mining school faculty pipeline which will provide the graduates that will become the leaders of the global mining and minerals industry.

“The long-term challenges that threaten the viability of U.S. mining schools and the looming workforce shortage are of utmost importance to the entire mining community,” said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. “To address these challenges, SME and the SME Foundation are proud to award these grants to ensure the sustainability of U.S. mining schools and their faculty. We offer our congratulations to these dedicated industry educators.”

The program allocates to each recipient:

- Academic Career Development Grant - \$100,000 per year for a maximum of three years. The grant provides assistant or associate professors financial support to fulfill requirements for achieving tenure and promotion.
- Ph.D. Fellowship Grant - \$60,000 per year for a maximum of four years. The grant provides financial support necessary to acquire a doctoral degree to students with industry experience and a desire to pursue an academic career.

Recipients of the 2019 mining academic grants are:

Freeport-McMoRan Career Development Grants

Jessica Wempen, Assistant Professor of Mining Engineering, University of Utah

QingQing Huang, Assistant Professor of Mining Engineering, West Virginia University

Shoemaker Ph.D. Fellowship Grant

Amy Richins, University of Utah, Mining Engineering

Stantec/McIntosh Ph.D. Fellowship Grant

Behzad Hassas, Pennsylvania State University, Mining Engineering

SME Ph.D. Fellowship Grant

Benjamin Teschner, Colorado School of Mines, Mining Engineering

The 2020 grant application period runs December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020. For more information on the SME mining academic grant programs, please visit <http://www.smenet.org/students/grants-scholarships>.

#

SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose members represent all professions serving the mining, minerals and underground construction industries in more than 100 countries. SME members include engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

For more information, contact Jackie Dorr, Communications Manager, dorr@smenet.org.

SME exists to be the premier resource and advocate for the mining community.

For further details, see www.smenet.org