



# SME Pittsburgh Section

## Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship

### Guidelines and Procedures

#### Overview

The Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship was created by the SME Pittsburgh Section Board of Directors in 2016 in memory of Mike Kotch, who was serving on the Board of Directors of the SME Pittsburgh Section at the time of his death. The scholarship was established to support promising college students in continuing their education in mining engineering and mineral, ore and coal processing. A graduate of the Mining Engineering program at the University of Pittsburgh, Mike worked as an underground mine foreman at CONSOL Energy Inc.'s (CONSOL) Enlow Fork Mine. He transferred to CONSOL's Central Engineering Office in 1998, where he worked in the Mine Ventilation Department. Starting in 1999 until his death in 2004, Mike worked on implementing SAP enterprise planning software system at the company. Mike was a well-known and respected member of the SME Pittsburgh Section and Board of Directors.

The Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship is awarded on a biennial basis to a student pursuing an undergraduate degree in mining engineering, mineral engineering and mineral, ore and coal processing at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State). Applicants must have completed their freshman year of studies at the time of application and have elected or be enrolled in course work leading to a degree in the above disciplines. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is required.

#### Timeline

The Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship adheres to the following timeline:

Date	Task
May 15-September 28	Applications accepted
September 15	Application initiation deadline – ( <b>Note:</b> All applications should be initiated by this date to allow plenty of time for receipt of letters of recommendation prior to the September 28 deadline.)
September 28	Application deadline
October 5	Selection deadline
October 8	Applicant notification deadline
October 31	Check mailed to successful applicant
Joint SME/PCMIA Meeting	Recipient recognized at the Joint SME/PCMIA Meeting held annually in October in the Pittsburgh Region

#### Applicant Qualifications

Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Completed at least one year of undergraduate studies at Penn State with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
2. Maintained good standing as an SME student member or have become an SME student member for this scholarship application.
3. Pursuing or having elected to pursue an undergraduate degree in mining engineering, mineral engineering and mineral, ore and coal processing at Penn State. Junior and senior applicants will receive preferential standing.

#### Application Requirements

Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship application materials must be submitted electronically. Applicants should go to the SME Pittsburgh Section website, [www.smepittsburgh.org](http://www.smepittsburgh.org) Scholarships tab and find the SME Pittsburgh Section Scholarship Committee link. The link will direct the applicant to an email address for Mike Keener at [sd70mike@gmail.com](mailto:sd70mike@gmail.com). Applicants should attach the following materials to his or her email:

1. Contact information (Word file with mailing address, email address, mobile phone number).

**Application Requirements - Continued**

2. One letter (pdf and/or Word file) of reference from faculty members, industry representatives (preferred), previous or current employer (preferred), and others familiar with the candidate's academic and professional interests.
3. Résumé detailing past education and work experience (pdf version).
4. Copy of most recent transcript (pdfs of unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
5. Anticipated expenses/income for the current academic year to demonstrate a need for financial assistance to complete the academic program he or she is pursuing (Excel or Word format).

Allowable Expenses estimated for the subject academic year:

- Tuition
- Books
- Lab fees
- Fees related to studies
- Room (dormitory charges, apartment rent, etc.)
- Board (meals, food, etc.)

Financial Resources estimated for the subject academic year:

- Student loans
- 529 withdrawals
- Income from part-time jobs, internships, co-operative employment
- Scholarships, grants and other similar aid

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**Award**

One Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship will be awarded on a biennial basis. The amount of the scholarship will be \$2,000.

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**Recipient Selection**

Selection of scholarship recipients is at the sole discretion of the SME Pittsburgh Scholarship Committee.

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**Questions**

Questions may be directed to Mike Keener at [sd70mike@gmail.com](mailto:sd70mike@gmail.com), subject: SME Pittsburgh Section Application.

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