



## Supporting students, at all stages of their education

For the 85<sup>th</sup> year, the Carnegie Science Center hosted the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) which brings over 450 students from grades 6-12 across 21 counties of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

For over a decade, the Pittsburgh Section of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) has supported the competition not only sponsoring students, but by also providing a \$500 award to the projects which are judged as most innovative to the mining industry.

This year, the judges found two student's efforts to meet the award qualifications. Each awarded the full prize, Elizabeth covering "Treating Acid Mine Drainage" and Swetha, "Energy Efficient Smart Ventilation Systems".



*L-R: Award Winners Shweta & Elizabeth*

While this competitive and innovative effort proved fruitful for all participating students, and for the mining industry, the Pittsburgh Section of SME continues with outreach to a different crowd.. the Boy Scouts of America, and helping them earn Merit Badges.

Penn State University's (PSU) Mining Department provide Sekhar Bhattacharyya (pictured in headline

photo), a professor at PSU and a merit badge counselor, along with Professor Ashish R. Kumar of PSU Mining Dept. to teach eager learners of the Juniata Valley Council of Boy Scouts, in supporting the attainment of their Mining in Society Merit badges.

During their pavilion session, the professors distributed and explained Mineral Kits, provided by the Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) which contain samples of bituminous and anthracite Coal, limestone, marble, gold, iron, copper ore, zeolite & gypsum. Both Penn State and West Virginia University continue with a decade of supporting Boy Scouts, providing a grounded understanding of the importance of mining for generations to come.



*Professor Kumar leans in to teach scouts*

We are actively seeking more volunteers to judge the PRSEF and to support educating the next generation through our multiple outreach opportunities. Help us grow, and volunteer!

For more information, visit the Pittsburgh Section website at: [community.smenet.org/Pittsburgh/home](http://community.smenet.org/Pittsburgh/home) or contact Stephen L. Benyo at: [BenyoGlobalMining@gmail.com](mailto:BenyoGlobalMining@gmail.com)