



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



One of the favored programs supported by the SME Foundation is the Minerals Education Coalition (MEC). The dedicated members of the MEC, volunteers and SME staff have created fantastic content and curriculum to support K-12 education in minerals and mining. They also travel throughout the country attending outreach events promoting the great aspects of our industry.

This last year, MEC members and volunteers interacted with over 2,500 teachers and counselors from across the country promoting minerals and mining the nation's educators. There are two main conferences that MEC attends each year: the National Science Teaching Association National Conference on Science Education and the American School Counselor Association National Conference. Both events provide valuable opportunities to promote minerals education and careers.

They have great content available that you may be aware of, but some you may not, including posters, bookmarks, coloring book and games. These resources are available at no, or low cost, to SME members on the MEC website.

One of MEC's main goals is to expand outreach. We know there are numerous opportunities across the country – far too many for MEC members alone to attend. That's why we are asking for your help. If you or your local section is interested in attending a local or state science teacher event, MEC and SMEF will provide financial support to cover registration fees and supply materials. Please contact SMEF staff or an MEC committee member for more information.

Andy Cole  
SME Foundation President

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

**PLAY WITH  
PURPOSE**

**A Game Night for Mining's Future**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

**Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City**

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 Games

*Dress: Business and Cocktail Attire*

**I ❤️  
MINING**

Sponsored by: **HEXAGON**

**SME**  
FOUNDATION

Buy your tickets or tables when you register for  
MINEXCHANGE at [SMEAnnualConference.org](https://www.smeannualconference.org).

Contact the SME Foundation at  
[smefoundation@smenet.org](mailto:smefoundation@smenet.org) for additional information.

All proceeds go to benefit the SME Foundation and the programs it serves.  
[www.smefoundation.org](https://www.smefoundation.org)

## SME Foundation Leadership

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Andrew P. Cole      | President                    |
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| Thomas C. Rauch     | SMEF Past President          |
| Catherine A. Joyner | Corporate Giving Chair       |
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| David L. Kanagy     | Secretary/Treasurer          |

## SCHOOL COUNSELORS LEARN ABOUT JOBS IN THE MINING AND MINERALS INDUSTRY

By Michelle Holmes

This summer, SME attended the 2025 American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA. The conference brings K-12 school counselors together to enhance their knowledge, improve their counseling program and network with other school counselors while discovering best practices, resources, and evidence-based materials in the field.

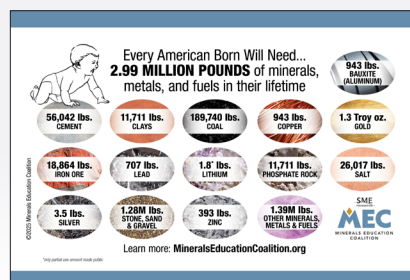
SME spoke with more than 300 school counselors and distributed informational packets on careers in the mining and mineral industry. The packet included an SME *Exploring Careers in the Mining and Minerals Industry* booklet, pamphlets about the programs available at all US mining schools and other SME Career Exploration materials. In addition, clips of the SME “Jobs of Tomorrow” video series played. All of these resources help school counselors better understand and provide information to their students about the exciting career paths in the mining and mineral industry with lucrative salaries, travel opportunities and an opportunity to make a difference in the world.

A special thank you to **Brett Zernich, PE**, a mining engineer who works in the Tunneling and Civil Underground Construction World as the West Regional Manager at the Underground Division at Traylor Bros., Inc., for volunteering at SME’s booth at this event.

## CELEBRATE EARTH SCIENCES

By Rebecca Smith

MEC partners with the American Geosciences Institute’s (AGI) Earth Science Week (ESW) to provide educational resources across the globe at [EarthSciWeek.org](https://EarthSciWeek.org), in the ESW Toolkit and on the MEC website at [MineralsEducationCoalition.org/esw](https://MineralsEducationCoalition.org/esw). The 2025 Earth Science Week celebrates the theme, “Energy Resources for Our Future.” MEC has developed the new “Solution Mining for Uranium” activity in the 2025-2026 Earth Science Week calendar, and the Rockin’ Energy: Powering Up with Mined Minerals postcard that explains MEC’s new online educational lessons. These are included in the 8,000 Earth Science Week Toolkits offered for free (pay shipping and handling) from AGI’s website.



## RELEASE OF THE 2025 MEC MINERAL BABY

By Rebecca Smith

The 2025 “MEC Mineral Baby” shows that an American born this year will need 2.99 million pounds of minerals, metals and fuels in their lifetime. The “MEC Minerals Needed Every Year” graphic explains that 38,016 pounds of new minerals must be provided for every person in the United States each year to make the things we use daily. Learn more about mineral statistics and download the new graphics at [MineralsEducationCoalition.org/stats](https://MineralsEducationCoalition.org/stats).

## NATIONAL OUTREACH COLLABORATION FEATURES AWARD-WINNING ALASKAN OUTREACH PROGRAM

By Michelle Holmes

Beki Toussaint, Program Director for Alaska Resource Education (A.R.E.), presented at the National Outreach Collaboration (NOC) 3rd Quarter virtual meeting September 9 on the topic: **“Alaska Resource Education: Educating Students About Alaska’s Natural Resources.”** Her presentation highlighted the impactful work A.R.E. is doing to educate students about Alaska’s natural resources. Through A.R.E.’s programs, students explore topics such as history, geography, processes, economics, health, safety, environmental stewardship, and career opportunities in Alaska’s energy and mining industries.

Following the presentation, 24 mining and minerals educational outreach providers participated in a Q&A session, which led to an open discussion. The group focused on the theme: **“Workforce Development: Changing the Mindset of What Mining Is to Increase New Interest in the Industry.”** Participants then shared ideas and strategies to attract students to careers in mining and related fields.

The next NOC meeting is scheduled for early December and will follow a similar format as previous sessions. A new presenter will be featured, with details to be announced soon.

## SME PE COMMITTEE HAS BUSY QUARTER *By Andy Schissler*



**NCEES**  
advancing licensure for  
engineers and surveyors

The SME PE Committee had a busy quarter promoting and advancing the PE Exam and the PE licensure. At their midyear meeting, the committee discussed programs that could foster growth for college seniors taking the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam- one of the required tests to receive professional licensure. To recognize participating seniors, the Committee will provide special acknowledgements, such as ribbons.

Committee member Dave Brokering delivered a presentation at an SME Young Leaders meeting highlighting the career benefits of becoming a licensed Professional Engineer (PE).

The Committee also attended The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Annual Meeting. Sixty-seven PE Boards of Registration representing all U.S. states and territories sent delegates to vote on policy changes related to PE Exams. A proposal submitted by SME to recognize 'mentorship' as an acceptable relationship between an Engineer-in-Training and a licensed PE for verifying the required four years of experience was approved. Mentorship now becomes incorporated into the Model Rules for attaining the PE licensure. While individual states retain legal authority over their licensure programs, they often consider the Model Rules when implementing their requirements.



**The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying 2025 Annual Meeting**

## SECOND ANNUAL WEST VIRGINIA GOLF TOURNAMENT IS A GREAT SUCCESS! *By Megan Martin*

For the second year, mining companies from coal country gathered to raise money for the SME Foundation at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. **Thanks to the generous sponsors and numerous golf teams, the SME Foundation raised more than \$18,000 for the PhD Fellowship and Career Development Grant Program.** Guests enjoyed an evening reception on Thursday night, then the following morning, 100 golfers competed on the beautiful Meadows Course. The big winner of the day was the team from SKF.

Thank you to the Golf Planning Committee members Joe McQuerrey, Michael Myers, Tom Rauch and Eric Shereda. This event would not have been possible without their commitment and dedication.

We look forward to holding this event again next year!

*2025 West Virginia SMEF Golf Tournament  
Thank you to our Sponsors:*



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## ABET ACTIVITY UPDATE

*By Rick Honaker*



Historically, ABET has been known primarily for its programmatic accreditation of degree programs (associate, bachelor's, master's) in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. Recently, ABET has expanded into a recognition/credentialing service aimed at skills-based credentials, micro-credentials, stackable credentials, and certificate programs (non-degree credentials).

This new service is designed to validate and assure the quality of certificate and skills-based credentials, aligning them with workforce needs and assuring external stakeholders—from learners to employers—that these shorter credentials have been peer-reviewed against defined standards.

### What is the Value?

In recent years, there has been strong growth in certificate programs and short-term workforce training programs. Many learners and employers increasingly rely on these credentials to upskill, reskill, or validate specific competencies without committing to full degree programs.

However, one perennial challenge is assurance of quality and validity: how can a learner or employer know a certificate "means something," especially across institutions? Traditional accreditation frameworks often do not cover non-degree programs or credentials. The new ABET recognition service aims to fill that gap—providing a brand of independent, discipline-based quality assurance for certificate programs in technical fields.

### Major Differences with Degree Program Accreditation

Accreditation of a degree program is based on an extensive evaluation of the program's success in meeting the requirements of eight criteria that covers the curricula, faculty, resources, student outcomes, continuous improvement among other areas that are deemed important for meeting minimum education standards across all programs and for specifically named programs. Graduation from an ABET-accredited program is a prerequisite for licensure.

### Conclusion

ABET's Credential Recognition Service marks a significant step forward in validating non-degree technical programs. By offering independent, discipline-based quality assurance, it helps ensure that certificate programs meet industry standards and support workforce development. This initiative strengthens the credibility of short-term training and enhances opportunities for learners and employers in technical fields.



**The Foundation of the  
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration**

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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](http://smefoundation.org).



The mission of the SME Foundation is to attract and leverage resources for a sustainable mining industry through education and outreach. Learn more at:

303.948.4200 or [smefoundation@smenet.org](mailto:smefoundation@smenet.org)