



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start. It's a busy summer for SMEF on the outreach front.

The 2026 Scouting America National Jamboree was held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia at the end of July. Nearly 15,000 young men and women Scouters attended, and SME's dedicated volunteers engaged with thousands who visited our booth to learn all the great things about the

mining industry and had a chance to earn the Mining in Society Merit Badge.

In early July, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) annual Conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. This is a great opportunity for SME to reach out to guidance counselors and share the opportunities a career in mining has to offer.

Registration is open for both SME Foundation annual golf tournaments. The proceeds from these tournaments help support the Career Development Grants. The first event is again being held at The Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia on Friday, September 25th. This is a great event at a wonderful venue that every golfer should experience at least once. The other annual golf event is the Arizona SMEF Golf Tournament, being held on Friday November 20th, again at the Gold Canyon Golf Resort. Sponsorships and golfing are open for both events and can be accessed through the SME Foundation website.

Thank you for all your support. Please enjoy the rest of your summer.

Best,

Andy Cole
SME Foundation President



2026 Golf Tour

SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, September 25, 2026

White Sulphur Springs, WV
The Greenbrier

Sponsored by  



Friday, November 20, 2026



Gold Canyon, AZ
Gold Canyon Golf Resort

Sponsored by  

Learn more at
smefoundation@smenet.org

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Be the First to Know

Sign up to be on the early bird registration list!



SME Foundation Leadership

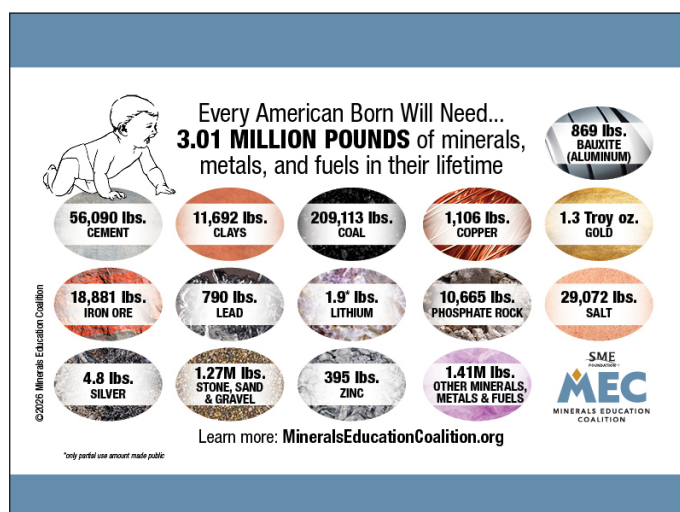
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2026 MEC MINERAL BABY

By Rebecca Smith

MEC has released its 2026 annual infographics on “Mineral Baby” and “Minerals Needed Every Year.” The MEC Mineral Baby details the estimated amount of minerals, metals and fuels that an American born this year will use in their lifetime. In 2026, this amount is 3.01 million pounds. The companion graphic, “MEC Minerals Needed Every Year,” explains that 38,155 pounds of new minerals must be provided for every person in the United States each year to make the things we use daily. Download these graphics at MineralsEducationCoalition.org/stats.

These numbers are calculated with statistics from the National Mining Association and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in combination with life expectancy data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Center for Disease Control. In order to represent an entire year, the completed USGS statistics from the previous year are used in the USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2026.



NATIONAL OUTREACH COLLABORATION DISCUSSES ADVOCACY FOR MINING

By Rebecca Smith and Chris Earnest

Ryan Sistad, Executive Director of Better in Our Back Yard (BIOBY), presented during the National Outreach Collaboration (NOC) first quarter in-person meeting on February 23. He highlighted BIOBY's outreach efforts through advocacy for industrial planning, with a particular focus on permitting reform and support for critical minerals development.

During the discussion, BIOBY shared its social media strategy, including maintaining a daily posting schedule, creating engaging graphics and generating audience interest in its content and initiatives.

The full presentation will be available soon on the NOC Community page within the SME Community.

NATIONAL OUTREACH COLLABORATION DISCUSSES EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO ENSURE AMERICA'S MINERAL FUTURE

By Rebecca Smith and Chris Earnest

Dr. Caleb Woodall and Nebiat Solomon, co-leads of the Workforce Development Working Group of the Critical Minerals Collaborative in the Department of Energy, presented at the National Outreach Collaboration (NOC) second quarter virtual meeting on June 4. The presenters shared the need for stronger coordination across stakeholder groups and better career awareness to build a strong critical minerals and materials workforce. They explained the Critical Materials Career Path Map, which can be found at <https://criticalmaterials.careerpathplatform.com/map/>, and discussed attendee feedback on the resource.

The group then discussed examples of outreach collaborations they felt worked and why, as well as challenges they have encountered, to help provide feedback and ideas to the presenters as the DOE endeavors to create future partnerships.

DR. ANGELINA ANANI EARNS TENURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



Dr. Angelina Anani recently earned tenure at The University of Arizona School of Mining Engineering and Mineral Resources. She is a 2022 recipient of the SME Freeport-McMoRan Career Development Grant and the 2023 SME Mining & Exploration Division Outstanding Young Professional Award.

Her research focuses on applying artificial intelligence, machine learning, simulation, optimization, and digital twin technologies to enhance mine safety, operational efficiency, sustainability and decision-making. Dr. Anani has led and contributed to work in AI-enabled geotechnical monitoring, intelligent hazard detection, mine planning optimization, and autonomous, low-carbon mining systems. Her efforts integrate operations research, discrete event simulation, computer vision, and data analytics to address challenges such as operational uncertainty, energy efficiency, geohazard prediction and sustainable resource extraction.

She served as Principal Investigator on a \$1.25 million CDC/NIOSH-funded project advancing data integration for mine automation and safety systems. Her ongoing research includes AI-enabled digital twins for real-time analysis of rock mass behavior, machine learning models for blast vibration prediction and geometallurgical modeling, and intelligent systems for underground hazard identification and risk management. She is also actively engaged in advancing sustainable mining practices, including low-carbon haulage, ESG risk analysis, and smart tailings management.

Dr. Anani serves on several professional boards and committees, contributing to the advancement of innovative, sustainable and technology-driven mining systems.



SME ABET AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STRENGTHENS ACCREDITATION READINESS AND EVALUATOR DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Rick Honaker

The SME ABET Affairs Committee has remained active in preparing for upcoming accreditation reviews and strengthening the pool of trained program evaluators (PEVs). To support evaluator readiness, the committee recently conducted a virtual ABET training session for PEVs who were unable to attend the face-to-face training held during the SME Annual Conference. The committee views this virtual option as an important tool for maintaining an adequate number of qualified evaluators and is considering offering the session annually to help meet future accreditation demands.

Committee activities will continue this summer as SME commissioners participate in the ABET Commission meetings in Baltimore, Maryland, July 13–19. During these meetings, final accreditation decisions will be made for academic programs reviewed in the 2025–26 accreditation cycle.

The committee has also completed appointments of PEVs for the 2026–27 review cycle. The upcoming cycle will include reviews of three mining engineering programs, one geological engineering program, and three geology programs. In response to growing demand for geology program reviews, SME—following approval by the Board of Directors—modified its cooperative agreement with the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG). The revised agreement enables AIPG members interested in ABET service to apply through their organization, with SME coordinating approval and training to expand evaluator capacity for geology-related programs.

In addition, several SME members volunteered over the past year and have completed the required ABET face-to-face training. These individuals will participate in observation visits during the 2026–27 review cycle as part of their preparation for future assignment as full PEVs, helping ensure a strong and sustainable pipeline of qualified accreditation volunteers.

SME PE COMMITTEE PROMOTES THE VALUE OF LICENSURE

By Andy Schissler



NCEES
advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors

The SME PE Committee had its spring teleconference in April. The discussions centered on our activities to promote the value of licensure. Highlights for the spring

include: a committee member developed a tabletop model of geology with removable sections. The member has given the presentation to schools in their area. Geologic topics constitute a major part of the Mining/Mineral Processing PE exam.

Another committee member gave a presentation to juniors, seniors and graduate students at the University of West Virginia on the value of licensure. The presentation included an example of design engineering and promoting taking the Fundamentals of Engineering exam while in school. The presentations were well received. Committee members who perform PE exam development under NCEES management met during a two-day teleconference. Questions were written and reviewed. Thank you to all PEs for your work supporting SME's 2,500+ PEs.



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

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