

MII and SME FOUNDATION MERGE TO BETTER SERVE THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

The Mineral Information Institute and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration's Foundation are pleased to announce the merger of their organizations. MII will be known as "MII, an affiliate of the SME Foundation". The merger is effective as of November 1, 2008.

The combined organizations will operate out of SME headquarters, 8307 Shaffer Pkwy, Littleton, CO, 80127, www.smenet.org.

"The influential combination of content, (MII) with outreach, (SME's GEM program) along with the proven fundraising of the SME Foundation provides the industry with a strong program of considerable reach. It is a winning combination that will do far better than a stand-alone program." said George Luxbacher, 2008 SME President.

MII Chairman, Marc LeVier comments that "the merger of MII into the SME Foundation brings synergy and benefits to both organizations. MII's materials will now be made available to K-12 teachers from a larger leveraged platform while GEM activities will have a solid supply of quality content materials. The mining industry is the ultimate winner as we consolidate like-minded organizations with overlapping missions and programs in order to bring a unified message with larger impact to the public".

The Mineral Information Institute (MII) is dedicated to educating youth about the science of minerals and other natural resources, and about their importance in our everyday lives. They do this primarily through development of materials that are directly usable by teachers in a variety of subjects and grade levels. MII distributes these materials free to classroom teachers to supplement existing curricula. More than 110,000 K-12 teachers receive teaching materials from MII each year.

According to Nikhil Trivedi, 2010 SME President, "The merger of MII and SME is a prime example of one plus one equaling more than two. Here are two groups of dedicated volunteers combining their resources under one umbrella to take their activities to a new level of effectiveness."

The SME Foundation supports scientific, technical, education and other activities that: foster interchange and understanding concerning the responsible development of the world's mineral resources and further the professional disciplines serving the minerals industry.

Marie Patterson, MII Board of Directors comments that, "Both organizations will benefit from the merger; more importantly, the industry will strengthen its base with effective educational resources through their joint brands."

SME is the premier society for professionals in the worldwide mining and minerals community.

For further details see: www.mii.org and www.smenet.org