

**NEWS RELEASE**

March 12, 2014

**World's largest professional mining society reports record attendance at Salt Lake City annual meeting**  
*One thousand more attendees than anticipated*

The 2014 Annual Meeting and Exhibit of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME) was held at the Salt Palace Convention Center Feb. 23-26, 2014, and brought together mining industry professionals from around the world. More than 37 countries were represented during the Society's four-day event, which featured nearly 700 professional papers presented in 117 technical sessions and eight professional short courses.

"Two areas where SME excels are the delivery of technical content and professional networking," said 2013 SME President Dr. Jessica Kogel. "The opportunities for information exchange and interacting with our global members at this meeting were superb. The 2014 Annual Meeting utilized the benefits and power of social media as well as hard copy publications and presentation of technical papers to provide a memorable and productive experience for our members and exhibitors."

Only the 2013 Annual Meeting held in SME's headquarters city of Denver, CO rivaled attendance figures. The Salt Lake City meeting saw the second highest numbers on record, including:

- 6,722 attendees; 22 percent more than anticipated.
- 613 international attendees; only 0.06 percent fewer than the 2013 record.
- 656 student attendees; 23 percent more than 2012.

The meeting began with a keynote session moderated by John Hollenhorst of KSL-NBC-5. "Community Engagement: Building Partnerships for Mining" featured a panel of experts discussing how to work together to ensure a social, economic and environmental balance in the development of mines worldwide. Opening the keynote session, local Boy Scouts and SME volunteers led a flag ceremony to commemorate the introduction of a new merit badge, Mining in Society, which was developed by SME members and staff.

Local journalists utilized opportunities for televised interviews and press coverage of key events throughout the meeting. Dr. Kogel and SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy were featured on Salt Lake City television segments discussing the theme of the annual meeting "Leadership in Uncertain Times," which focused on the importance of changes within the industry during the last decade, and new ways of doing business in a global community. According to the Salt Lake City Visitors and Convention Bureau, more than \$5 million in direct delegate spending was generated into the local economy by the SME meeting attendees.

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SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose more than 15,000 members represent all professions serving the minerals industry in more than 100 countries. SME members include engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

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*SME exists to be THE resource and advocate for the mining community.*  
For further details, see [www.smenet.org](http://www.smenet.org)