

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc.

Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship®

PROGRAM:

The Fellow spends one year working as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. Activities may involve conducting legislative or oversight work, assisting in congressional hearings and debates, and preparing briefs and writing speeches. The Fellow also attends an orientation program on congressional and executive branch operations, which includes guidance in the congressional placement process, and a year-long seminar series on science and public policy issues. These aspects of the program are administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

PURPOSE:

To provide a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the federal legislative process and make practical contributions to the effective and timely use of their specific knowledge in mining, mineral processing and mined product applications as they relate to the environment, natural resources, and federal science policy. Qualified candidates will gain an invaluable public policy learning experience, contribute to the more effective use of mined materials knowledge in government, and broaden awareness about the value of scientist/engineer-government interaction within the federal government.

AWARD:

The Fellow will have a one-year appointment beginning September 1, 2014. The Fellowship stipend will be dependent upon experience, plus assistance for health insurance, travel and relocation expenses to the Washington, D.C. area. Final selection of the Fellow will be made by Feb 27, 2014.

CRITERIA:

Candidates must be an SME member at the time of application. Candidates must hold a Ph.D. or be an equivalent level scientific professional, or mining professional with a master's degree (plus 3 years experience) who demonstrate exceptional competence in one of the following fields: Mining Engineering, Metallurgy, Geology, Mineral Economics, Mineral Processing, or related area. Regardless of age or career stage, all applicants must demonstrate:

- Solid scientific and technical credentials and the endorsement of three qualified references;
- A strong interest in applying their knowledge toward the solution of societal challenges;
- Awareness of the ways in which science, engineering and technology affect a broad range of non-scientific issues, and sensitivity to political, economic and social factors; and
- Willingness and flexibility to tackle problems beyond the scope of their specific area(s) of scientific or engineering expertise.

Also necessary are integrity and good judgment; the ability to communicate well, both verbally and in writing, to non-scientific audiences and work cooperatively with individuals having diverse viewpoints; and the capacity to work effectively with decision makers and others outside the scientific and engineering communities. In addition, candidates are expected to display maturity and self-direction, with the initiative and flexibility to work independently as well as in groups.

U.S. Citizenship is not required; however, applicants must be authorized to work in the United States. Fluency in English is required. SME's selection of a Fellow is made without regard to gender, race or ethnicity, religious or political persuasion. Federal employees are not eligible.

APPLICATION:

Applications must be [postmarked or emailed by December 31, 2013](#) and must include the following materials: (1) a resume, no longer than two pages, providing information about educational background, professional employment, community and professional activities, public policy and legislative experience, committee and advisory group appointments plus one additional page for professional publications and presentations; (2) a statement of approximately 1,000 words addressing the applicant's interest in the fellowship, career goals, contributions the applicant believes he or she can make as a Fellow to the legislative process and what the applicant wants to learn from the experience; and (3) three signed letters of reference specifically addressing the applicant's experience and how it would relate to their ability to work on Capitol Hill as a special legislative assistant.

The deadline for applications is December 31, 2013.

Letters of reference should be mailed or emailed directly by the reference to the address below and must be in PDF format, on official letterhead and include an electronic or scanned signature. Letters of reference should not be submitted by the candidates themselves.

Application materials should be mailed or emailed to:

SME • Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship • c/o John Hayden • 12999 East Adam Aircraft Circle • Englewood, Colorado 80112 • hayden@smenet.org.

Working in the political pool



John Hayden,
Director, Government
and Public Affairs

Spend a year in Washington

Otto von Bismark (1815-1898) once said, "Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made."

The German Prussian politician had it right. With congressional approval ratings hovering in the single digits, why would someone voluntarily put themselves in a situation to affect public policy in our nation's capital, when the majority of the U.S. populace is staunchly against this do-nothing Congress?

Well, if you have enough intestinal fortitude to wade into Washington for one year as a seasoned mining expert with a chance to apply your industry knowledge to positively affect change in the laws that govern your industry, you may come out the other side of your year of living dangerously with a deeply satisfying experience of having made a difference in an industry that could use some good news right now. If this sounds like a challenge to you, then SME's Congressional Fellowship may just be your ticket.

In this unique SME program, the Congressional Fellow spends one year working as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. Activities may involve conducting legislative or oversight work, assisting in congressional hearings and debates, and preparing briefs and writing speeches. The Fellow also attends an orientation program on congressional and executive branch operations, which includes guidance in the congressional placement process, and a year-long seminar series on science and public policy issues.

A prospective Fellow must have a demonstrated record of success in research or scholarship in mining engineering, extractive metallurgy, economic geology, geological engineering or environmental engineering. The Fellow must also demonstrate sensitivity toward policy issues and have a strong interest in applying scientific and technical knowledge to U.S. public policy issues. The Fellow must be able

to work quickly and communicate effectively on a variety of topics and be able to work cooperatively with individuals having diverse viewpoints. An applicant is expected to be a member of SME and have either a doctorate or a masters degree with at least three years of professional experience.

SME's Fellowship application period runs from Dec. 1-31, 2013. Stipends depend on experience. The Fellowship officially begins Sept. 1, 2014 and ends Aug. 31, 2015. Applications must include the following materials:

- A résumé, no longer than two pages, providing information about educational background, professional employment, community and professional activities, public policy and legislative experience, committee and advisory group appointments plus one additional page for professional publications and presentations.
- A statement of approximately 1,000 words addressing the applicant's interest in the Fellowship, career goals, contributions the applicant believes he or she can make as a Fellow to the legislative process and what the applicant wants to learn from the experience.
- Three signed letters of reference specifically addressing the applicant's experience and how it would relate to his or her ability to work on Capitol Hill as a special legislative assistant.

U.S. citizenship is not required. However, applicants must be authorized to work in the United States. Fluency in English is required. SME's selection of a Fellow is made without regard to gender, race or ethnicity, religious or political persuasion. Federal employees are not eligible.

This program will provide a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the federal legislative process and make practical contributions to the effective and timely use of the candidates specific knowledge in mining, mineral processing and mined product applications as they relate to the environment, natural resources, and federal science policy.

If you are interested in this program, contact John Hayden, hayden@smenet.org, phone 303-948-4250, or Jackie Dorr, dorr@smenet.org, phone 303-948-4244. ■