NEWS RELEASE
August 1, 2013

SME available scholarships increase 124% in four years –
2013 season opens August 15

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) is comprised of topic-specific divisions devoted to focused areas within the mining and minerals industry. These divisions offer multiple scholarships to SME student members who demonstrate a desire for a career in the minerals industry. The number of applicants has climbed sharply in recent years, as have the numbers of scholarships awarded. In 2009, 21 scholarships were awarded by SME divisions; the number has increased annually, more than doubling to 47 in 2012. Additionally, the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (WAAIME), a division of SME, administers a varying number of scholarships each year, both within the United States and through their international sections.

“A key mission of SME is to foster interest in, and facilitate the study of, mining and mineral-related courses at colleges and universities by providing scholarships to qualified students,” said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. “U.S. mining, geological and geophysical engineering programs are among the best in the world, and we are proud to be able to provide these educational opportunities to the future leaders of the global mining industry.”

In 2012, a total of $416,000 in scholarship monies was distributed by all SME divisions to SME student members attending institutes of higher learning. In 2009, the amount of scholarships awarded was $229,000. In addition to WAAIME, the SME divisions and affiliations which offer scholarship programs are: Coal and Energy; Environmental; Industrial Minerals and Aggregates; Mineral and Metallurgical Processing; Mining and Exploration; and the Underground Construction Association of SME. The SME Foundation currently administers an additional seven scholarships. Several memorial scholarships have also been created to honor division luminaries, and SME members have devoted countless hours to developing the guidelines and criteria for each new scholarship program. Furthermore, SME has implemented the “Review Room” online application and review process to improve and enhance the entire experience for students and reviewers. The 2013 SME scholarship application season will open Aug. 15, 2013. For more information, please go to www.smenet.org/scholarships.

* * *

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 are engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

For more information, contact John Hayden, Deputy Executive Director - Public Affairs and Government Relations, (303) 948-4250 or hayden@smenet.org

SME exists to be THE resource and advocate for the mining community.
For further details see www.smenet.org/.