NEWS RELEASE
September 21, 2016

**SME Minerals Education Value-added Website**

*Updated resources designed for K-12 education and outreach*

The website for The Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) of the SME Foundation has a new look. Rotating images present content and materials that tell the story about the importance of mining and minerals. The lively and innovative website was designed to quickly provide materials for students and teachers in the classroom, as well as industry professionals and companies for outreach.

“The message that MEC conveys is used by a variety of audiences, from educators in K-12 classrooms, to legislative committees when considering changes to policies that affect our mineral needs,” said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. “The impact that this message carries is that it reminds all of us of the important role that minerals and energy have in our daily lives and lifestyles.”

MEC is the SME Foundation’s program designated to generate an enlightened and supportive public that appreciates the importance of mining and minerals. Its mission is to provide informative educational resources and materials that result in an understanding that mineral and energy resources are essential to society and can be produced in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. MEC strives to achieve this goal by developing materials that present an accurate view of the mineral and energy resource industries. The website features mining and mineral statistics, weekly fun facts, outreach and awareness programs, and mining’s reclamation success stories following sound environmental practices.

MEC designs and distributes posters, classroom activities, videos, CDs, DVDs, and other teaching materials that convey the positive message about the industry. Last year, the MEC website had 414,173 unique users viewing 1,151,691 pages. More than 47,500 free outreach and educational materials were downloaded from the site, including lessons plans, activities and materials ready for the classroom, as well as presentations for industry leaders and companies to use in their community outreach programs.


* * *

SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose more than 15,000 members represent all professions serving the mining, minerals and underground construction industries 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.

For more information, contact Jackie Dorr, Communications Manager, 303-948-4244 or dorr@smenet.org.
SME exists to be the premier resource and advocate for the mining community.
For further details, see www.smenet.org