NEWS RELEASE – May 9, 2018

The Underground Construction Association of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (UCA of SME) is pleased to announce the recipients of its top awards. The presentations will be made during the Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, during the North American Tunneling Conference (NAT) in Washington, D.C.

The UCA of SME Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Harvey Parker. This award is being presented to Dr. Parker for his contributions to the U.S. and global tunneling industry for over five decades and recognition of his initiatives in public awareness of the role of tunneling and underground space in our everyday lives. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in the underground design and construction industry. The outstanding achievements include seeking advances in new methods, materials, and advancing the public understanding and concurrence with the beneficial uses of underground space.

The UCA of SME’s Outstanding Educator Award: Dr. Priscilla Nelson. This award is being presented to Dr. Nelson for her contributions in the field of tunneling and her dedication to the education of a new generation of engineers specialized in underground construction and tunneling in the U.S. In addition, UCA of SME recognizes her initiatives as a role model and inspiration for young female students pursuing advanced degrees in the field of tunneling. The award is presented to professors and teachers who have had an exceptional career in academia and education in the area of underground design and construction.

The UCA of SME Outstanding Individual Award: David Klug. The award will be presented to David Klug for his contributions to the tunneling industry and his leadership involvement in UCA of SME. This award recognizes those individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of tunneling and underground construction and to UCA of SME during the last two to five years, as well as sustained involvement in UCA of SME activities and its various committees.

The Project of the Year Award: Northern Boulevard Crossing – Presented to Schiavone / Kiewit, AJV, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff, NYCMTA Capital Construction. At 85 feet below ground level, the Northern Boulevard Crossing was recognized as the most technically challenging aspect of New York City MTA’s East Side Access project. “The Northern Boulevard Crossing was probably the most challenging 125 feet of tunnel ever undertaken in New York,” said Paul C. Schmall, Senior Vice President, Moretrench. “It was a great team effort that allowed several first-time technical achievements to make the whole thing possible.” This highly complex and challenging project was marked by extensive pre-planning, stringent controls, a sophisticated monitoring program, and a cooperative project team effort throughout. The result: a problem-free tunnel excavation with no appreciable movement to the overhead structures.