

## 2018 SME Annual Conference & Expo Draws Over 6,200

Over 6,200 attendees converged on Minneapolis February 25-28 to attend the 2018 SME Annual Conference & Expo and 91st Annual Meeting of the SME - MN Section. The event was held in the beautiful Minneapolis Convention Center in the heart of the city. The theme this year was: Vision, Innovation and Identity: Step Change for a Sustainable Future.

The opening Keynote Session featured speakers who provided critical information about the importance of industrial innovation, technology and social responsibility. The speakers were: Bob Anderson, VP Research & Development, 3M; Rene Aguilar, VP Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Antofagasta Minerals Group; Christophe Beck, Executive VP & President Nalco Water; and Rolf T. Weberg, Executive Director, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth. The moderator was Frank Vascellaro, Anchor, WCCO, Minnesota.



Robert E. Murray is Presented with the Distinguished Service Award by Sukumar Bandopadhyay



Michael G. Nelson is Presented with the Howard N. Eavenson Award



Opening Keynote Session



Murray Energy, Kevin Pan

Meeting attendees had the unique opportunity to engage with peers and leaders from across the industry to gather insights, information and tools needed to excel in an era of industry innovation and change. There were more than 100 technical sessions and an expansive market place of more than 550 exhibiting companies. There were also plenty of other events including Student Activities and functions for WAAIME and Young Leaders.

The Coal & Energy Division Luncheon was more upbeat than has recently has been the case reflecting the greater optimism in the industry. The Luncheon was sponsored by CONSOL Energy with the Auction sponsored by Murray Energy Corporation. The Speaker was Michelle Bloodworth COO of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE). A number of awards were presented or recognized.

Coal & Energy Division Distinguished Service Award:

**Robert E. Murray**

Coal & Energy Division Past Chair Award:

**Sukamar Bandopadhyay**

Howard N. Eavenson Award:

**Michael G. Nelson**

Erskine Ramsay Award:

**J. Steven Gardner**

Stefanko Best Paper Awards:

**Kevin Dill**

**Scott D. Rosenthal**

J.W. Woomer Young Engineer Award:

**Jacob L. Carr**



Jenmar



Komatsu



Matrix, Rich, Brad and Don



West River Conveyors, Russ James and Joe Street



GMS, Joel Helbig, Lester Tupper, Rachel Boz Boothby and Ed Zeglen



Nexans AmerCable



Victaulic



Mining Engineering WVU

Helen Trexler, Project Manager, Tetra Tech, was the Chair of Coal & Energy Division Program. The meeting included numerous Technical Sessions put together for the Coal & Energy Division including: Accessing Capital, Application of CFD in Mine Ventilation, Best of Ground Control, Carbon Sequestration, Coal Mine Reclamation, Coal Preparation, Collegiate Mine Rescue, Dust Control, First Five Years in the Mining Industry, Mine Safety, Rare Elements in Coal, Research and Development, and Ventilation Innovations.

Throughout the four-day meeting, the need for continuation of innovation in the industry was stressed by mining professionals, who have been able to quickly and efficiently deploy resources when and where they were needed providing greater safety and increased productivity. The combination of long-term vision, industry innovation and cultural identity was clearly seen as the key to remaining competitive in today's regional and global economy.

President of SME is John G. Mansanti, President-Elect is Barbara Arnold and Executive Director is David L. Kanagy. The 2019 SME/CMA Annual Conference is February 24-27 in Denver, CO. For further information, visit [www.smenet.org/meetings](http://www.smenet.org/meetings).



MMD, David and Paul



FGX Sep Tech, LLC, Bhupendra Parekh



Mining Magazine, Donna Schmidt



McLanahan, Jeff, George and Scott



NIOSH



Brookville, Matt Melillo



Caterpillar MineStar Demo Vehicle



Liebherr