



*MINING AND MINERALS EDUCATION FOUNDATION*

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## **American Mining Hall of Fame Awards Banquet & Fundraiser Set for Saturday, Dec. 2, JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass**

**TUCSON, Ariz (May 11, 2023)** -- The 41st Annual American Mining Hall of Fame Awards Banquet and Fundraiser will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa. The annual event is sponsored by the Mining and Minerals Education Foundation (MMEF) formerly known as the Mining Foundation of the Southwest (MFSW). Each year the MMEF honors a slate of individuals and companies who have made notable contributions to the advancement of the mining industry.

Event proceeds funds an Education Outreach Coordinator managed through The University of Arizona School of Mining & Mineral Resources. Chris Earnest has served as the **Educational Outreach Coordinator** since September 2019, creating educational materials, and leading demonstrations and activities for students and the public to help stimulate interest in and understanding of mineral resources and the mining industry.

**Xavier Garcia de Quevedo Topete**, Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman of Grupo Mexico, is this year's **Hall of Fame Inductee**. Since January 1, 2011, he served as president of Grupo's infrastructure division which includes energy, oil & gas, highways, and engineering and construction projects. He began his professional career in 1969 with Grupo México as operations supervisor. He was with Grupo Condumex, S.A. C.V., (electro manufacturing, telecommunications and auto parts) occupying the position of Executive Vice President. He is member of the Boards of Directors of Grupo Mexico, Americas Mining Corporation, Southern Copper Corporation, Grupo Mexico Transportes and Ferromex. García de Quevedo was Chairman of the Mining Chamber of Mexico from November 2006 to August 2009. In August 2022, the Mexican Union of Associations of Engineers (UMAI), awarded him a gold medal for "Excellence in Engineering 2022" in the category of Operation/Management. He is an active partner of the Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists and Geologists of Mexico (AIMMGM).

**R. Gene Dewey** is this year's **Medal of Merit** recipient. Dewey began working for Molycorp: a major rare earth, molybdenum and niobium producer, which was acquired by Unocal in 1977. He became the President and CEO of Molycorp, Inc. in 1985 and was appointed VP of Unocal Carbon and Minerals and President & CEO of Molycorp in 1991. Dewey retired in 2000. Dewey was a member of the Board of Directors of The National Mining Association from 1986 to 2000. He also has been a member of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) since 1969. He is a founding member of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, member of the Board of Trustees and past Director, member of the



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SW Mining Association, The Mining and Metallurgical Society of America and The Institute for the Advancement of Engineering.

**Ed McCord** is also a **Medal of Merit** recipient. McCord was responsible for the development of Caterpillar's Autonomous Haul Truck Program. He began his association with Caterpillar in June 2003 as Project Consultant. Shortly after the acquisition of Bucyrus in July 2011, McCord was assigned the role of Product Director for Hauling and Extraction. Prior to joining Caterpillar, he worked for Komatsu Ltd., where he held numerous executive roles including Senior Vice President - Operations, President of Haulpak Division, President North America R&D Division, and CEO of Komatsu Mining Systems. During his 30-year career, McCord fulfilled assignments in manufacturing, marketing, sales, engineering, product management, and general management. He was instrumental in designing and commercializing trolley assisted haulage and was the industry's leading expert in electric drive haul trucks. McCord retired in January 2014.

**Benny Corbell** will receive the **Medal of Merit** for young professionals. Corbell is an experienced Mining Engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the mining & metals industry. Skilled in underground mining, surface mining, geology, copper mining, and engineering, he is a strong engineering professional with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree focused in Mining and Mineral Engineering from University of Arizona. Corbell is presently the Mine Manager at Bagdad for Freeport-McMoRan and spent 13 years in the Army Reserves from 2004 – 2017.

Four individuals instrumental from mining's history also will be recognized at the event:

- **Joseph R. De Lamar** (1843–1918) was a prominent mine owner and operator in the western United States and Canada, as well as a financier and speculator, from the late 1870s until his death in 1918. He was the first backer of Enos Wall's Bingham property. His evaluations served to convince others that the property had merit. Three former mining cities, which are today ghost towns, were named after him including Delamar, Nevada; De Lamar, Idaho; and Delamar, California.
- **Felix McDonald** (1875 – 1936) was the originator of the modern system of block caving into inclined raises, using grizzlies to control the ore flow from the caved area. McDonald set up the underground mine at Inspiration, patterned after what he had developed at Ohio Copper in Utah.
- **Stuart Bengson** (1943 – 2021) is best known for pioneering the science of restoration of mined landscapes at active and inactive mine sites throughout the Southwest. He developed successful



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innovative technologies for drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation, minimal capping of mine wastes for revegetation & dust control, optimum plant species for reclamation, and implemented mine impact reclamation using livestock and biosolids. He was awarded the Pioneer of Reclamation Award by the American Society of Reclamation Sciences in 2003.

- **Dr. Stanley Howard** (1945 – 2021) received his Doctorate in Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1971. He moved to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and began a distinguished 50+ year career in research, teaching, mentoring, and contributions to science and engineering. Dr. Howard was a Registered Professional Engineer, served as TMS President and was awarded TMS's Alexander R. Scott Service Award.

**Ames Construction** will receive the **Industry Partnership Award**. **Ames Construction** is a full-service heavy civil and industrial general contractor. For the last 35 years, Ames has successfully executed complex mining projects which has placed them at the forefront of the mining industry. From infrastructure, mine development, and mine facility construction, to contract mining and mine reclamation work, they have an arsenal of experience including pre-production stripping, turnkey mine development, contract mining, mine closure and reclamation work.

**The Arizona Copper Arts Museum** in Clarksdale will receive a **Special Citation**. The Museum tells a genuine story that marries Arizona's greatest treasure with world legends and fantastic art by returning copper home to where it all began. The museum's massive collection includes more than 5,000 works of copper art and architecture of Western European and Northern American emphasis, spanning from 3500 B.C. to present day. This massive collection is easily equivalent to most large city museum collections, although purposely located in Clarksdale to connect with Arizona's copper connection.

**MMEF** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education and public understanding of the mining industry and its related disciplines. MMEF seeks sponsors to advance its mission, raising funds designated to support the Foundation's education program managed through The University of Arizona School of Mining & Mineral Resources.

Sponsorships are now available at the following levels: Diamond (\$10,000); Platinum (\$7,500); Gold (\$5,000), Copper (\$2,500) and Silver (\$1,000). If you wish to join others to support the Foundation's mission, contact Thomas L. Aldrich, Executive Director.

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