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## MINING FOUNDATION OF THE SOUTHWEST

P.O. Box 42317, Tucson, AZ 85733

### PRESS RELEASE

## AMERICAN MINING HALL OF FAME AWARDS BANQUET & FUNDRAISER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 29, 2022

The **40th Annual American Mining Hall of Fame Awards Banquet and Fundraiser** sponsored by the Mining Foundation of the Southwest (MFSW) will be held at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Each year the MFSW honors a slate of deserving individuals and companies who have made notable contributions to advance the mining industry.

Proceeds from the event go to funding an Education Outreach Coordinator position managed through the Lowell Institute for Mineral Resources at The University of Arizona (U of A). Chris Earnest has served as the **Educational Outreach Coordinator** since September 2019 where he creates educational materials, demonstrations and activities to help stimulate interest in and understanding of mineral resources and the mining industry.

This year's **Inductee** is **Denise C. Johnson**, group president of Caterpillar Inc. She has responsibility for Resource Industries (RI), which includes Integrated Components and Solutions Division, RI Operations and Products Division, Strategic Procurement & Planning Division and the RI Sales, Services and Technology Division. Johnson joined Caterpillar in 2011 and initially served as the general manager of Specialty Products within Caterpillar's Reman & Components Division, where she had global responsibility for wear component products and facilities. She previously had a career with General Motors, where she built deep expertise in operations and product management. In 2012, the Caterpillar Board of Directors named Johnson vice president of the Diversified Products Division. In 2013, Johnson was named vice president of Integrated Manufacturing Operations, and in 2014, she was named vice president of Material Handling & Underground Division. She was named group president of Resource Industries in April of 2016. Johnson, a native of Portland, Michigan, graduated from Michigan State University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. She earned dual master's degrees in mechanical engineering and business administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1997.

A **Medal of Merit** will be awarded to **Steve Trussell**, Executive Director of the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) and the Arizona Mining Association (AMA). He joined ARPA in 2007 and is responsible for the promotion and preservation of the sustainability of the rock & construction materials industry through active involvement in community relations, the regulatory and political processes. In 2016, Steve also became the Executive Director of the AMA. The AMA is an advocate for the mining industry and he assists its member companies in promoting and supporting the industry. During his tenure, the AMA has seen a 500% growth in membership despite lower prices for metals and minerals, as more and more companies see the importance of mining in Arizona and supporting the industry. Before joining ARPA, Steve was a consultant for the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education. He received his B.S. in History and his Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Arizona State University,

The **Medal of Merit** for young professionals will be awarded to **Omar Smith**, a Senior Civil Engineer for Wood PLC, working out of its Phoenix offices. Prior to joining Wood, he worked 7 years at AECOM, 4 years at Knight Piesold and began his career at Casto Engineering. He has exhibited exemplary leadership qualities and has performed meritorious service to the mining industry above and beyond the normal course through his endless hours of voluntary service to SME. In addition to his leadership as a volunteer in SME, Omar manages Wood PLC's Arizona Design Group and is an industry leading mine infrastructure design expert.



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The 2022 event will also recognize 4 individuals from **Mining’s Past**. **Zeno Lightfoot Dili** (1893 – 1927) was an Apache man from Rice, Arizona, who worked underground at the Magma Copper Company mine in Superior during the late 1920s. In the early hours of the morning on Thanksgiving Day in 1927, Dili perished in the underground disaster but was posthumously honored with a gold medal for his bravery and heroism by the Joseph A. Holes Safety Association in 1935. **Buck O’Donnell** (1901 – 1969) was a talented illustrator and cartoonist of mining. His drawings are based on his experience, which ranged from mucker to mine superintendent. He lived through a technological revolution in mining and was part of it as manager of Shaft & Development Machines Co. of Salt Lake City, a manufacturer of mining equipment. Aside from the latter, he worked for Anaconda at Butte MT and the Idaho-Maryland Mining Co. in Grass Valley, CA. **John Haskell Davis, Jr.** (1915 – 1996) spent his entire career working for Phelps Dodge and in 1957 became PD’s Western Engineering’s Chief Mechanical Engineer until his retirement in 1978. Davis, Jr. specialized in the world of copper mine-concentrator-smelter operations. To this world, he contributed 4 innovations and much infrastructure, including two integrated plants and adjoining townsites including Hidalgo. **Donald J. Lunt** (1929 – 2019) was a devoted historian and expert on the history of mining in Clifton-Morenci, Arizona, Mr. Lunt has done more than any single individual to help preserve the history of mining in this early copper district ensuring that future generations of Americans can appreciate the rich mining history of the area.

The **Industry Partnership Award** will be given to **Ruen Drilling** which was established in 1974 providing core drilling services to the mining industry. The company enjoys the reputation as a leader in geotechnical core drilling, providing defensible design data for tunnels, bridges, dams, highways and other civil projects. Ruen Drilling continues to adapt to new techniques in drilling and sampling procedures to be well equipped for the unique projects for the mining and geotechnical industries.

A **Special Citation** will be given to the **Montana Technological University Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering** in recognition of their 100th year anniversary in 2022. The Centennial Event—Celebrating Our Past and Securing Our Future— will be held in Butte, Montana September 27 through October 1, 2022. The Department has enjoyed an enormously positive world-wide reputation for the quality of education students receive. Students learn how to process ores, separate valuable minerals into concentrates, produce and purify metals, manufacture metals into products, and create new materials.

MFSW is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote education and public understanding of the mining industry and its related disciplines. MFSW is currently seeking sponsors to advance its mission and funds raised are designated to support the Foundation’s education program established in conjunction with the Lowell Institute for Mineral Research at the University of Arizona.

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



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