FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 28, 2022

The 40th annual American Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser sponsored by the Mining and Minerals Education Foundation (MMEF) (formerly known as the Mining Foundation of the Southwest) will be held at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Each year the MMEF honors a slate of deserving individuals and companies who have made notable contributions to the advancement of the mining industry.

This year’s Inductee is Denise C. Johnson, group president of Caterpillar Inc. and its Resource Industries division. Her segment makes the most iconic Caterpillar products – both surface and underground – for the mining, heavy construction, quarry and aggregates and waste industries. Her team is made up of 25,000 global employees in more than 25 locations spanning four continents. A native of Portland, Michigan, she graduated from Michigan State University 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) as a Fellow of the MIT Leaders for Global Operations program. Johnson is a member of numerous outside boards, including National Mining Association Board of Directors, National Association of Manufacturers and the US Chamber of Commerce.

The Medal of Merit will be awarded to Steve Trussell, Executive Director of the Arizona Rock Products Association and Arizona Mining Association. Trussell received a B.A. and Master’s Degree from Arizona State University and a Post Baccalaureate Degree from Ottawa University. He began his career as a teacher but transitioned into the mining industry in 2002 where he showcases his advocacy for the mining industry and utilizes his skills in community relations, government affairs, regulatory processes and general legislative processes at the federal, state and local level. He serves on several boards and committees including the Center of Environmentally Sustainable Mining and the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council.

The Medal of Merit for Young Professionals will be awarded to Omar Smith, Senior Civil Engineer supporting the Geotechnical Service for WSP. He graduated with a B.S Degree in Civil Engineering and a Minor in Mathematics from the University of Arizona. Smith is an active member of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) including SME’s Tucson Section. He is presently on the SME Environmental Division Executive Committee and is the Environmental Division’s Program Chair for the 2023 SME Annual Conference.

The Industry Partnership Award will be given to Ruen Drilling, a leader in quality core drilling for the mining and geotechnical industries. Established in 1974 in Clark Fork, Idaho by Dorian Ruen, the company’s services have expanded to include specialized geotechnical drilling and mineral exploration drilling. Ruen Drilling’s crews have developed its international reputation as one of the very best in its business.

A Special Citation Award will be given to Montana Technological University, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in recognition of its 100-year anniversary of educating students in the mineral industries. The program has evolved over the years, but it continues to honor its heritage while fulfilling the historical mission of The School of Mines and Engineering. Graduates of the program have a passion for excellence and are recognized among the world’s most versatile engineers.

The 2022 event will also recognize four of the Mining’s Past giants. Zeno Lightfoot Dili (1893 – 1927) perished in the Thanksgiving Day 1927 fire at the Magma Mine in Superior, Arizona while trying to rescue other miners who were trapped at the 500-foot level; J. C. "Buck" O'Donnell (1901 – 1969) was a talented illustrator and cartoonist...
of late-nineteenth-to-mid-twentieth century mining practices. He lived through a technological revolution in mining, had an eye for detail, and just happened to have a good sense of humor to go along with it as reflected in his work; **John Haskell Davis, Jr.** (1915 – 1996) was the chief mechanical engineer for Phelps Dodge’s Western Engineering Department and was involved and responsible for PD projects around the world; and **Donald J. Lunt** (1929 – 2019) was a devoted avocational historian of the old Copper Mountain Clifton-Morenci mining district who amassed and documented a large collection of historical photographs of the mining district.

MMEW is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote public understanding and education related to mineral resources and the mining industry, both in the U.S and abroad. MMEW is supported by its sponsors to advance its mission and to fund the Foundation’s education program established in conjunction with the School of Mining & Mineral Resources at the University of Arizona.

Sponsors for this year’s events are as follows:

**Diamond** – Caterpillar Inc and Komatsu

**Platinum** – Eclipse Mining Technologies, Epiroc, Freeport-McMoRan, Hexagon, M3 Engineering, and Titan Mining.

**Gold** – Ames Construction, Asarco Grupo Mexico, Capstone-Pinto Valley, Doosan Bobcat, Empire Southwest, Independent Mining Consultants, Mining and Metallurgical Society of America (MMSA); Meridian Construction, Newmont, Ruen Drilling, Rummel Construction, Southwest Energy, SRK Consulting; Stantec and Westland Resources.


**Other Sponsors** – National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum

For more information about the event or if you wish to join others to support the Foundation’s mission, please contact Thomas L. Aldrich, Executive Director, Mining & Minerals Education Foundation at admin@miningfoundationsw.org or call 520-577-7519.