



Twin Cities Subsection Student Chapter Report SME Annual Meeting 2016

Chair: Bethany Kelly

BKelly@barr.com

952-832-2730

The University of Minnesota SME Student Chapter was established in January 2012 and each year students attending the SME Annual National Meeting are supported by funds provided from sponsor contributions to the Twin Cities Subsection and additional funding from the SME Minnesota Section. This year four students attended the SME National Meeting in Phoenix. One provision in the terms for supporting the Student Chapter is that students attending the SME National Meeting report on their experiences and benefits gained from the trip. Individual reports are available at “2016 Student Reports” on the SME TC Subsection website www.smetwincities.org

In summary, all students had their understanding of the mining industry greatly expanded including seeing the potential for career opportunities. They enjoyed the keynote address given by astronaut Mike Mullane on how the normalization of lower standards can lead to catastrophic disasters such as the Space Shuttle Challenger o-ring failure. They also attended individual sessions related to their own technical interests. Good use was made of networking opportunities, talking with students from other Student Chapters and with SME officers, members and exhibitors. Attendance at the Friends of Minnesota Reception was a requirement and the students enjoyed mingling with sponsors and local SME members with Minnesota connections.



An additional requirement was that they promote the SME Public Awareness Campaign (PAC) by discussing it with exhibitors and leaving some PAC cards at the booths. Exhibitors responded favorably and cards were left at 44 booths. The two female students attended the Women’s breakfast and appreciated the discussion on the changing role of women in the mining industry.

Overall, the University of Minnesota SME Twin Cities Student Chapter continues to be successful and the ability to do this with the support of our sponsors is greatly appreciated.

Photo above, left to right: Ken Reid – SME TC Director, Emily Erhart, David Rivera, Sophie Kasahara, Richard Jett, Greg Beckstrom – SME TC Director and Past Chair