

NEWS RELEASE – October 9, 2026

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The Southwest's Premier Annual Mining Conference Returns to Tucson in 2026

The Longstanding Regional Event Features Signature Speakers, World-Class Technical Sessions, a Conference Workshop and Short Course, and More



The 2026 SME Arizona Conference is the leading event for collaboration and growth in Arizona and the Southwest's mining industry, taking place December 6–7 at the Westin La Paloma Resort in Tucson, Arizona. The conference focuses on the development, technology, and innovations used in local area projects.

The conference program covers the latest regional developments in the areas of mining (including Northern Mexico), environment, geotechnical, mineral processing, geology, and new projects. Special highlights include a Keynote Session titled "The People Behind the Project: Resolution Copper's Next Chapter" by Vicky Peacey, President and General Manager, Resolution Copper. This year's Welcoming Lunch speaker is Scott Scharli, Director of Strategic Energy

Management, Salt River Project (SRP), who will present “Supporting Large Load Electrical Growth in Arizona.”

Attendees may also choose from a short course and a workshop to enhance their conference experience with additional professional development opportunities. New in 2026, conference registration is not required to register for these specific functions.

The “Changes to NI-43-101” short course offers 14 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and will provide expert opinion from Greg Gosson (Practice Leader; Mining Disclosure, WSP Canada Inc.) and Stella Searston (Principal Geologist, Mine Technical Services Ltd.) on how this may impact current mining industry practice standards and what will be required to meet these new disclosure standards, if the proposed rule changes are adopted.

The Women in Mining (WIM) workshop “Clear Boundaries, Strong Voices: Boundary Setting Skills for Women in Mining” is where participants will practice navigating real workplace situations to decide when to address issues directly and when escalation is necessary to protect safety, fairness, and team outcomes. This workshop will be instructed by Deborah Himself, Eller College of Management and Dr. Sutapa Dube, Integrative Wellness and Health Psychiatry, PLLC.

“Arizona and the surrounding region are continuing an evolution as a powerhouse in sustainable mining practices, and this year’s program truly reflects that,” said Darla Gage, Principal Advisor Environment, Resolution Copper and 2026 SME Arizona Conference Chair. “We encourage all across professional, student, and academic audiences to join us as we continue to chart out an exciting path forward.”

Conference attendees will also network and engage during exciting events such as the University of Arizona SME Student Chapter’s 31st Annual Diggers and Duffers Golf Tournament, the AMIGOS Mining Industry Casino Night, a Student Poster Session featuring 16 posters, and the return of the Shark Pit—a *Shark Tank* style innovation pitch competition where students

present bold new ideas to transform the future of mining. In addition, former SME Executive Director and CEO, Dave Kanagy, will accept the Medal of Merit at the collocated 44th American Mining Hall of Fame Awards Banquet & Fundraiser.

For more information and to register, visit smeaz.org.

About SME

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) brings together the mining and mineral industry's brightest and most dedicated professionals. Over 14,000 global members advance their careers with the world-class technical resources, educational programs, networking opportunities and professional development tools from SME. Our members are focused on sharing best practices for safety, environmental stewardship and moving mining forward. SME. *Inspiring mining professionals worldwide.*