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SME Executive Director Recognized With Prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award

David L. Kanagy's over two decades of service defined by a drive and spirit leading to unprecedented organizational growth and industry collaboration



Denver, CO - At the Colorado Society of Association Executives (CSAE) 2024 Annual Awards on June 6 in Fort Collins, CO, SME Executive Director and CEO, David L. Kanagy, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award honors the individual whose enduring contributions have shaped the association profession and left an indelible mark on the CSAE community.

Kanagy has worked in association management for over 40 years, the last 20 of which have been with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) as Executive Director and CEO. He will retire from SME in March of 2026, leaving behind an organization that has blossomed into the world's premier mining membership society under his remarkable leadership.

"I am beyond humbled to receive this recognition from my good friends at CSAE," said Kanagy, who served as the 2012-2013 CSAE President. "Serving SME's thousands of members across the globe and supporting the association business at large has been my greatest professional honor."

Kanagy's tenure at SME is marked by a multitude of signature achievements including helping to amass over \$39 million in assets through astute strategic planning, financial management, mergers, and new product and service development. This level of growth has allowed SME to

better serve its 13,000+ members by increasing full-time staff from 23 to 55 individuals since his arrival. Said staff increases have equipped SME with the ability to cater to the many needs of its growing membership comprised of professionals in the mining, tunneling, and underground construction sectors.

Kanagy also oversaw the development and implementation of OneMine.org, which went live in 2008. OneMine.org is the most extensive online research library for mining. Today, 14 mining societies collaborate to add content to a database consisting of over 140,000 documents and over 2.5 million searchable pages.

SME's philanthropic initiatives, led by the SME Foundation, have also flourished during Kanagy's tenure. Through the collaborative work of members and staff, Kanagy helped implement vital Ph.D. Fellowship and Academic Career Development Grant programs. These programs have resulted in over \$7 million for 38 individuals to advance towards tenured faculty status, addressing long-term challenges that threaten the sustainability of U.S. mining and mining-adjacent degree programs. In addition, he has helped build key fundraising strategies such as the Corporate Roundtable Partnership to support the many successful SME Foundation programs and K-12 outreach efforts.

To this day, Kanagy attends meetings all over the country and world to meet with and encourage the work of SME's local membership sections. His unique accessibility also extends to long-distance communication, meaning that all SME members can call or email him directly with everyone getting an answer.

About SME

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) brings together the mining and mineral industry's brightest and most dedicated professionals. Over 13,000 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

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sharing best practices for safety, environmental stewardship and moving mining forward. SME.

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