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Legendary Career of SME's Dave Kanagy To Be Honored on Saint Barbara's Day

Longstanding tradition celebrating mining industry leaders on the day of the Patron Saint of Mining set to return in 2025



Dave Kanagy, SME Executive Director and CEO, at the Colorado Society of Association Executives (CSAE) 2024 Annual Awards, where he received the Lifetime Achievement Award

Denver, CO – On December 4, 2025, the Colorado Mining Association (CMA), in partnership with the Denver Gold Group and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration (SME), will celebrate Saint Barbara's Day with a holiday lunch honoring the industry-shaping career of longtime SME Executive Director and CEO, Dave Kanagy. Each year, St. Barbara's Day offers a moment to reflect on mining's rich history and tradition. As the 2025 honoree, Kanagy has cemented himself as a key historical figure via his decades-long leadership of the world's largest mining society.

This upcoming event occurs on the heels of Kanagy's recent receipt of the Prazen Living Legend Award from the National Mining Hall of Fame (NMHF) in Leadville, CO on September 6, 2025, where he was recognized for his many contributions to SME and to the United States mining industry. Kanagy also received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Colorado Society of Association Executives (CSAE) 2024 Annual Awards for his remarkable career, which has shaped the association profession and left an indelible mark on the CSAE community.

"Nearing the end of his historic career, we couldn't be more excited to honor Dave on Saint Barbara's Day," said Adam Eckman, President and CEO of the Colorado Mining Association. "As a friend and collaborator, Dave has brought out the best in all of us who are working towards his noble mission of advancing responsible mining to meet the resource needs of the future."

Kanagy is set to retire in March 2026 after more than two decades of transformative leadership at SME. Since the beginning of his tenure in 2003, SME has grown in relevance, programming and global reach, and has found financial stability. Signature achievements include helping to amass over \$45 million in assets through astute strategic planning, financial management, mergers, and new product and service development. In addition, Kanagy oversaw the development and implementation of OneMine®, a key resource where 15 mining societies collaborate to add content to a database containing over 147,000 documents and over two million searchable pages.

"SME would not be where it is today without the countless contributions of our staff, members, and partners," said Kanagy. "I look forward to passing the torch to my successor, Melissa Russell, who will continue to uphold the values and standards that make SME the world's greatest mining society."

Through the collaborative work of members and staff, Kanagy also helped implement vital Ph.D. Fellowship and Academic Career Development Grant programs. These programs have resulted in over \$8 million for 42 individuals to advance towards tenured faculty status, addressing long-

term challenges that threaten the sustainability of U.S. mining degree programs. In addition, he has helped build key SME Foundation programs such as the Corporate Roundtable Partnership.

The 2025 St. Barbara's Holiday Lunch honoring Dave Kanagy is set to occur on Thursday, December 4 from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm at Eddie Merlot's in Englewood, CO. To register, visit coloradomining.org/page/StBarbarasHolidayLunch.

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.*