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## 2025 SME Minnesota Conference to Feature Three Days of Extensive Programming, Including the 10th North American Iron Ore Symposium

*Immersive field trips, expert speakers, first-class technical sessions, educational short courses, and an expansive exhibit hall will highlight premier annual mining conference*

From April 7-9 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia, MN, the 2025 SME Minnesota Conference will offer forward-thinking perspectives on various topics, including ESG, innovation in processing, plant maintenance optimization, iron ore, and industry challenges. Professionals and students alike will encounter an immersive environment where they can interact directly with industry trailblazers, participate in high-level technical sessions, expand their network, and much more.

This year's conference theme is "Mining the Future: Sustaining Culture Amidst Change - Innovating Today, Preserving Tomorrow." Opening Plenary speakers will focus on automation, generative AI, and the future of Minnesota's mining industry. The Closing Plenary will offer global insight on stakeholder engagement from two human rights leaders representing the industry. The program will also include the 10<sup>th</sup> North American Iron Ore Symposium.

"This year's SME Minnesota Conference will provide attendees with an intimate look towards the sustainable, high-tech, and safety-focused future of mining," said Kurt Doran, Chair of the 2025 Minnesota Conference and Project Manager at Northeast Technical Services, Inc. (NTS). "We cannot wait to host individuals of all experience levels and backgrounds at the conference, where we will chart out our collective path forward."

## Featured Speakers – Ethics Course



**Lisa Bodine**, Owner and Chief Revenue Officer at Giant Voices, will present “Ethical Communications and Responsible Project Advocacy.” Over the past 25 years, Bodine has assisted organizations in solving wicked-complicated communications matters – primarily in the technology, energy, raw materials and manufacturing sectors. She enjoys working at the intersection of commerce, policy and stakeholder engagement to roll out new products, reposition brands and align internal sales and marketing teams. Bodine is also an owner of First Strike Safety Solutions and Maureen and Associates, where she provides financial, communication and marketing oversight to her partners who manage the daily operations.

## Featured Speakers – Opening Plenary



**Ben Miller** (left), Partner and Principal Consultant, Lewicki and Associates, and **Mark Savit** (right), Adjunct Professor, University of Arizona, will present “Automation, Generative AI, and the Future of Minnesota’s Mining Industry.” Dr. Miller has over 20 years of mining experience in all aspects of mining operations, planning, and environmental compliance. After working on projects for globally dominant international companies to small private businesses, he has overseen all phases of mineral extraction projects from initial conception through full production. Savit joined the Bureau of Mines Health and Safety Division in 1971. During his career, he participated in mine rescue at the Sunshine Mine and Scotia Mine disasters. In 2009, he founded Predictive Compliance, a comprehensive MSHA compliance management solution using predictive analytics. He has also recently released MSHAWise, a plain language MSHA compliance guide.

## Featured Speakers – Closing Plenary



**Dr. Kathleen Turner** (left), Global Human Rights Lead at Freeport-McMoRan, and **Erinn Mah** (right), Manager of Indigenous Relations at Teck Resources, will present “Global Insight on Stakeholder Engagement.” Dr. Turner has over 15 years’ experience leading work for the mining and oil and

gas sectors in non-technical risk management including social performance, human rights, and external affairs. Over the course of her career, she has worked across six continents. Erinn Mah is responsible for supporting Teck’s objective to be a mining partner of choice for Indigenous Peoples through strategy and program development and execution. Mah has dedicated her professional career to Indigenous relations and social performance work with experience in mining, energy, finance, and utility industries across Canada and into the United States.

The SME Minnesota Conference has been taking place in the region for over 90 years, providing professional development to one of the nation’s largest mining sectors. To learn more about the 2025 SME Minnesota Conference, including schedule details and registration information, visit [SMEMNconference.org](https://SMEMNconference.org).

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### 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.*