

OVERVIEW AND ELIGIBILITY

The Robert H. Richards Award in Minerals Beneficiation (Richards Award) recognizes achievement in any form that unmistakably furthers the art of mineral beneficiation in any of its branches and may be awarded from time to time upon authorization by the SME Board of Directors on recommendation of the Robert H. Richards Award Committee.

There are no limitations regarding nationality or membership in the AIME Member Societies, but preference is given to members. If a committee member is nominated, they will follow any recusal (or other) procedures that their Member Society employs. The recipient must have been living when they were selected. Current AIME trustees are ineligible to receive AIME awards, except the Presidential Citation or if nominated and selected for another award prior to starting their AIME Board service.

TIMELINE

The Robert H. Richards Award typically adheres to the following timeline:

Date	Task
April 1	Call for nominations
June 1	Nomination deadline
June 30	Committee chair provides qualified applications to members of committee
July 15	First round of voting complete; committee chair schedules conference call to discuss results (if needed)
July 25	Second round of voting complete (if needed)
August 1	Recipient name and citation provided to awards coordinator
September 15	Recipient is notified
SME Annual Conference & Expo	Award is presented

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Robert H. Richards Award require the following information:

1. Completed nomination form including demographic and contact information for both the nominee and the principal nominator.
2. **Required:** One letter of support detailing the nominee's qualification for the award. Should address qualities that are mentioned in the guidelines. Should focus on quality over quantity introducing the candidate to the committee (1 page).
3. **Not required:** Up to four additional letters emphasizing the candidates qualifications for the award. (quality over quantity) (1 page each).
4. Nominee's biography (2 page maximum).
5. Nominee's CV/resume (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).
6. List of papers/publications (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).
7. Appropriate award citation.

All nominations submitted will be considered active nominations for a period of three years. Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines provided on the award nomination form, which may be downloaded here: smenet.org/awards-recognition

<p>CRITERIA</p>	<p>The Richards Award is administered by the SME Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division (MPD) Executive Committee. The Richards Award Committee shall consist of nine members of the Society, two being appointed annually by the SME president, subject to approval of the SME Board of Directors. The tenure of office shall be four years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of three nominations need to be received and evaluated for each award in order to select a winner. • Current members of the SME Board of Directors, SME Division Executive Committees, Award Committees, or Foundation Board of Trustees are NOT eligible for any awards that they are responsible for approving during their term, with the exception of “past chair” recognitions. • No person is eligible to receive more than one SME or SME/AIME award in a single year.
<p>SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS</p>	<p>Recipients of the Richards Award shall be selected by a majority vote by the Award Committee, subject to the approval of the MPD Executive Committee and the SME Board of Directors. The award need not be presented in any given year if a suitable candidate is not agreed upon.</p>
<p>AWARD</p>	<p>The Richards Award shall consist of a silver vanning plate, about twelve inches in diameter, engraved or embossed with the name of the award as follows:</p> <p>THE ROBERT H. RICHARDS AWARD IN MINERALS BENEFICIATION PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING, METALLURGICAL, AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERS</p> <p>as well as the name of the recipient and the citation of the particular achievement for which the award is being conferred.</p>
<p>PRESENTATION OF AWARD</p>	<p>The Award will be presented at the SME Annual Awards Celebration, held in conjunction with the SME Annual Conference & Expo. Additionally, the Richards Award recipient will be recognized during the MPD Luncheon and invited to present a lecture of his/her choice during the MPD Plenary Session.</p>
<p>FUNDING</p>	<p>All expenses incurred with respect to the award shall be the financial responsibility of the Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division.</p>
<p>AMENDMENTS</p>	<p>These guidelines may be amended by the Award Committee, subject to approval by the MPD Executive Committee, SME Board of Directors, and AIME Board of Trustees. Any such amendments must be reflected in all appropriate award documentation.</p>
<p>QUESTIONS</p>	<p>Questions may be directed to: Awards Coordinator Email: awards@smenet.org or SME Member Services Department Phone: 303-948-4200</p>