The Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference (RETC) is a biennial international conference dedicated to the exchange of new developments in the technology of underground rapid excavation and tunneling on a global scale.

The RETC Attendance Award provides selected students with an opportunity to attend either the RETC or NAT Conference. Applicants must be full-time freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate students with a designated major in an applicable field of engineering (civil, mechanical, mining, electrical, geological) or construction management. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in the underground industry.

The goals of the RETC Attendance Award are:

- Provide students with skills and information for a career in the underground industry
- Provide educational and networking opportunities to future underground industry professionals
- Increase exposure of available career opportunities in the underground industry

The RETC Attendance Award is administered by the RETC Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc. (SME).

Applications must be submitted online. Applicants will need to follow the directions provided to submit their applications. The application consists of demographic and contact information, school and university information, work history, and a few short answer questions.

Up to twelve recipients will be selected. Each recipient will receive:

- RETC Conference Registration
- Round-trip airfare to either the RETC or NAT Conference in June
- Hotel Accommodations at conference hotel
- Conference Proceedings
- Social Function Tickets $200 stipend for miscellaneous cash needs

Recipients are responsible for their own ground transportation and for any other expenses, including meals, other than the social functions provided.

The RETC Attendance Award adheres to the following timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2</td>
<td>Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Application deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Selection deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Applicant notification deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>RETC or NAT Conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions regarding the RETC Attendance Award may be directed to:
Tara Davis, davis@smenet.org
Carol Kiser, scholarships@smenet.org
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc.