



# ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

## Provided by RETC Executive Committee

### Guidelines and Procedures

UCA  
Underground  
Construction  
Association  
A Division of SME

**NAT**2026  
NORTH AMERICAN  
TUNNELING CONFERENCE

#### OVERVIEW

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration annually awards one or more scholarships to promising college students who desire to develop their skills in the tunneling industry. The total amount of the award (approximately \$5,000) is apportioned to one or more students at the discretion of the RETC Executive Committee.

#### CRITERIA

Candidates for the Academic Scholarship must be of good character, must have demonstrated scholastic aptitude, and must show a proven need for financial assistance. Candidates must be enrolled in a regular course of study leading to a degree (either undergraduate or graduate) in civil engineering, geological engineering, mining engineering, mechanical engineering, process engineering, geology, construction management, or project management. A "B" average is required.

Applicants must be fully matriculated at a North American school recognized by the RETC Executive Committee. Sophomore or higher standing is required. In addition, students must be a U.S., Canadian, or other NAFTA country citizen. A desire for and probability of success in a career in the underground engineering and construction industry will be important factors in selection of the successful candidate.

Before awards are authorized, candidates or personal references may be interviewed by one or more of the RETC Scholarship Committee members to determine the nominee's desire for a career in the tunneling industry and his/ her likelihood for success. Recipients of the Academic Scholarship are required to attend the NAT Conference, the costs of which shall be covered by an Attendance Award.

#### HOW TO APPLY

The Attendance Scholarship is administered by the RETC Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc. (SME). Applications must be submitted via SME's online scholarship application portal.

Applicants will need to follow the directions provided within that online portal to create their accounts and then may proceed to submit their applications. The application consists of demographic and contact information, school and university information, work history, and a brief essay describing the applicant's interest in pursuing a career in the underground/tunneling industry. A personal reference from a faculty advisor or underground industry professional is required.

#### TIMELINE

The Academic Scholarship adheres to the following timeline:

Date	Task
<b>February 14</b>	Launch
<b>March 29</b>	Application deadline
<b>April 15</b>	Selection deadline
<b>April 20</b>	Applicant notification deadline
<b>June 15-18</b>	NAT Conference

#### QUESTIONS

Questions may be directed to:  
[scholarships@smenet.org](mailto:scholarships@smenet.org) or  
Customer Service: 303-948-4200