

Overview

The Robert Earll McConnell Award (McConnell Award) recognizes significant contributions that tend to advance a nation’s standard of living or replenish its natural resource base. Such significant contributions may be represented by discovery of a major source of mineral supply, by development of an engineering process to extend present minerals supplies, or outstanding engineering contributions that, in other ways, enhance the standard of living.

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 either find a replacement committee member so that they can resign for the year or remove their nomination until their term is up. Candidate must be living or passed away prior to May 1st of the nomination year.

No AIME Major Award winner is eligible to be nominated for another AIME Major Award until 9 years shall have elapsed, and the nomination support package shall conspicuously reference work in a new field or significant new accomplishments in the field for which the original award was made. (The AIME Major Awards are the Charles F. Rand Memorial Gold Medal, Robert Earll McConnell Award, James Douglas Gold Medal, Hal Williams Hardinge Award, Erskine Ramsay Medal, Robert H. Richards Award, William Lawrence Saunders Gold Medal, Benjamin F. Fairless Award and Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal.)

AIME Board members are exempt from receiving AIME awards.

The award was established by AIME in 1968 as the Engineering Achievement Award and renamed in memory of Robert Earll McConnell, a prominent mining engineer and financier, following his death in 1971. Mr. McConnell was a member of AIME for 55 years. In 2011, AIME transitioned administration of this award to SME.

Timeline

The McConnell Award typically adheres to the following timeline:

Due 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 Meeting	Award is presented

Nominations

Nominations for the McConnell Award should contain the following information:

1. Completed nomination form including demographic and contact information for both the nominee and the principal nominator.
2. Up to five letters of support detailing the nominee’s qualifications for the award (no longer than 2 pages each).
3. Nominee’s biography (2 page maximum).
4. Nominee’s CV/resume (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).

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5. List of papers/publications (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).
 6. 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: <http://www.smenet.org/awards/>

Administration	The award will be administered by a committee made up of the Past Chair of each SME mining-related division. The Chair of the committee is selected from amongst the members alphabetically by division, beginning with C&E in 2011.
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Selection of Recipients	Recipients of the Award shall be selected by a majority vote of the Committee of the Award, subject to the approval of the SME Board of Directors. The Award need not be presented in any given year if a suitable candidate is not agreed upon.
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Award	The Robert Earl McConnell award consists of a cast bronze three dimensional, 10" vertical design of the AIME symbol, mounted on a walnut base to which is affixed a bronze plate on which the recipient's name, year of award, and citation honoring the service or achievement are inscribed.
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Presentation of Award	The Award will be presented at SME's Annual Awards Banquet, held in conjunction with SME's Annual Meeting. Additionally, the recipient will be recognized at the annual luncheon of the SME Division that he/she is affiliated with.
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Funding	All expenses incurred in respect of the Award shall be the financial responsibility of AIME. SME will invoice AIME to reimburse costs once all expenses are in each cycle.
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Amendments	These regulations may be amended by the Committee of Award, subject to approval by the SME Board of Directors.
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Questions	Questions may be directed to: Awards Coordinator, SME Member Services Department Phone: 303-948-4208 E-mail: awards@smenet.org
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