

Washington, D.C. Section honors Hedrick with the Hoover Award

The Washington, D.C., Section of SME presented James (Jim) Hedrick with the Herbert C. Hoover Award, the highest honor given by the section. Hedrick received the award at the section's luncheon on May 16, 2018.

Hedrick has served as chair of the Washington, D.C. Section since 2015. Currently, he is president of Hedrick Consultants Inc. in Burke, VA, which provides consulting expertise on all aspects of the metals and industrial mineral industries.

Among his many accomplishments, Hedrick is an expert in rare-earth elements, having served as the rare-earth commodity specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey from 1980-2010. He continues to write articles for the minerals industry and has chaired various sessions on rare earths and strategic and critical minerals in the United States and Europe. He previously worked as a geologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civilian in the Portland District (Oregon).

Hedrick is a graduate of James Madison University with B.S. degrees in geology and general science. He did graduate study at North Carolina State University.

The Hoover Award is presented annually to a local section member who has provided outstanding service to the minerals industry and to SME's Washington, D.C. Section. Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States, was the section's first chair and a mining engineer. ■



James Hedrick receives the Herbert C. Hoover Award from SME's Washington, D.C. Section.

The people behind the awards

Over the next few months, SME will briefly profile the engineers and miners who are remembered by the AIME-founded awards presented to SME members.



MCCONNELL

The **Robert Earll McConnell** Award recognizes beneficial service to humanity by engineers through significant contributions that advance a nation's standard of living or replenish its natural resources.

McConnell was born in 1889 and studied mining engineering at Columbia University, where he roomed with Harvey S. Mudd Jr. He worked as an engineer for Harvey Mudd Sr. before serving in World War I. Following his military service, he worked as a mining engineer and studied the stock market. Eventually, he established a venture capital company active in financing start-ups and arranging capital investments into emerging technologies of the time. Due to his wise investments, his company survived the 1929 stock market crash and subsequent depression. McConnell then embarked on a third career in public service, sitting on many government boards and advisory committees during World War II. He established the Robert Earll McConnell Foundation in 1936 and, following his death in 1971, the foundation presented AIME with the award fund in his name.



RAND

The **Charles F. Rand** Memorial Gold Medal is awarded for distinguished achievement in mining administration, the area in which Rand excelled.

Rand began his career in railroads but later turned to mining, especially iron mining. As president of the Spanish-American Iron Co., he assayed and then developed the Mayari Plateau (Cuba), which contained 450 Mt (500 million st) of soft hematite ore. In addition to his leadership roles in industry, he was president of AIME in 1913, served as treasurer from 1922 to 1927 and was the AIME District of New York director from 1914 to 1927. He also served as president of the United Engineering Society and as a member of many other boards and committees. Following his death in 1927, colleagues established a fund to remember his contributions, which eventually endowed the memorial gold medal. ■