

THE MINERALS

EDUCATION TRUST FUND - A good news story



At a time when good news stories are few and far in between, **The Minerals Education Trust stands out.** Over the nearly twenty years of its existence, it has had a significantly positive impact on both the minerals and education sectors.



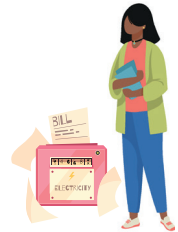
The Minerals Education Trust Fund was **constituted in 2000 by South African minerals and mining companies** concerned about the ability of the tertiary minerals education departments at South African public universities to continue to produce much needed high-level technical skills at a time when the ranks of skilled and experienced lecturing staff were being depleted due to attractive offers from overseas institutions as well as the local industry itself.

There were few, if any incentives for **qualified engineers and scientists in disciplines such as Mining and Metallurgical Engineering** as well as the **Geological Sciences** to enter and/or remain in academia when they could secure more favourable remuneration packages and career prospects elsewhere.



QUALIFIED ENGINEERS & SCIENTIST

The Fund therefore has as its objective to subvent the salaries of key lecturing staff in the abovementioned disciplines to the point where it becomes viable for qualified professionals to not only enter the world of academia but to make it a primary career choice.



The Fund receives contributions from its members who represent the majority of the **South African mining and minerals sector** having grown from **13 companies in 2000 to 29 in 2019.**

THESE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FUNDING SUBVENTIONS FOR ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS

AT 9 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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It is widely acknowledged by the universities that without this funding, they would not be able to attract and retain the appropriately qualified academic staff in these disciplines.



Vacancy levels in the funded departments are typically low and when they do occur, it has been possible to make new appointments despite the scarcity of the required skills.

TEACHING SKILLS



Examples of this would be teaching skills in subjects such as Mine Ventilation, Rock Mechanics, Mining Geology, Extractive Metallurgy to name but a few.



From time to time, **the Fund has also been able to make grants for the purchase of capital items.** These are normally selected to ensure that the undergraduate teaching meets the needs of the industry. An example of this would be **Mine Design software currently being used in industry being purchased with a capital grant to use in teaching undergraduate Mining Engineering students.**



HELLO



The Fund's work is carried out voluntarily by

75

INDIVIDUALS

Representing their member companies who set aside time to visit the funded departments, build relationships and gain the necessary insight into the status quo and needs of the departments before sitting with their colleagues on the Fund's various committees to make decisions around annual budgets and expenditure.



This work has created close links between the minerals industry and the minerals education departments as well as an awareness of each other's needs and requirements. This ensures the ongoing relevance of the teaching taking place.

We graduate more undergraduates in these disciplines than the rest of the English - speaking world.

This is however not only a 'numbers' game, the industry also requires graduates equipped to deal with its technical and management challenges.



In addressing both these requirements, the METF is key in ensuring a supply of high-level technical skills necessary for the transformation and viability of the South African minerals sector.

THE ULTIMATE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS SUPPORT ARE

5,114

undergraduate students registered in Mining, Metallurgical, Chemical Engineering & Geological Sciences

IN THE 9 FUNDED INSTITUTIONS,

75%

OF WHOM ARE AFRICAN BLACK STUDENTS &



39%

OF WHOM ARE FEMALE (2019 FIGURES)



The Fund is extremely grateful for the contributions and participation received from its members on whom its sustainability is dependent.



KUMBA IRON ORE



DE BEERS GROUP



GLENCORE

HATCH



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