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Virginia Wins Two Interstate Mining Compact Commission Awards

*~ Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Awarded For
Miner Safety and Training ~*

Big Stone Gap, Va. – Safety training programs created by the staff of the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) received top honors from the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC). DMME received the Coal Underground Mining Safety and Health Training Award and the Metal/Nonmetal Surface Mining Safety and Health Training Award.

DMME’s “Mine Safety Minute” videos received the coal underground award in the state category. The videos are short and simple reminders designed to target common safety issues. The agency teamed with the industry for topics and demonstrations. The videos are shared every week on DMME’s social media accounts and are always available on the agency’s [YouTube channel](#).

DMME also received the metal/nonmetal award for the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program. Created in collaboration with the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance and Germanna and Mountain Empire Community Colleges, the goal is to create a more knowledgeable and safer mining workforce. While attendees will receive valuable, hands-on training through the program, they will also receive credentials that can qualify them as a Virginia Certified Mine Foreman. This program is the first of its kind in the industry.

“Our miners are the most important asset to the industry in Virginia,” said DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert. “Our mine safety teams are always looking for creative ways to ensure these miners are educated and refreshed as often as possible. Our team never stops training.”

This is the fourth year the IMCC has given awards to recognize excellence in mine safety and health training programs and materials.

The awards will be presented at the IMCC's annual meeting in Tuscon, Arizona this week. The IMCC is made up of 25 states that have a mining industry.

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