VASU GANGRADE

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EDUCATION

University of Utah, M.S. in Mining Engineering, GPA 3.8/4.0

Aug 2012 – Jul 2014 Salt Lake City, UT

Received Capacity Building Research Scholarship with full-tuition and stipend for two years (\$84K); Public relations officer for Indian Student Association of Utah; International Student Ambassador; Member of Utah Tennis Club

Indian Institute of Technology, B.Tech. in Mining Engineering, GPA 7.4/10 Dhanbad, India Jul 2008 - Jun 2012 Amongst the top 2% candidates in India to qualify the prestigious IIT-Joint Entrance Examination; Member of university soccer team; Editor and graphic designer for university newsletter; Internship at Tata Steel from May 2011 to July 2011

EXPERIENCE

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) | Mining Engineer

Pittsburgh, PA

Jul 2015 - Present

- Subject matter expert for mine safety and health in the U.S. government, working in natural gas, coal, and limestone commodities; Principal investigator for the project on reduction of respirable contaminant exposure to workers
- Published 19 scientific articles, presented at 12 international conferences, and chaired 3 technical sessions at energy conferences; Cited by leading researchers around the world including Australia, China, India, Poland, and the U.S.
- Represented U.S. government in bilateral talks with the Colombian government on improving occupational safety and health; Visited Bogota in response to more than 300 fatalities in 2018 in the mining and gas industry
- Overseeing and managing research grants and government contracts (\$1.4M) awarded to universities and private companies
- Drafted strategic plan and environmental impact statement submitted to Congress for acquisition of land and development of an underground laboratory for explosions research in Mace, WV; Congress appropriated \$25M for the project
- ♦ Collaborated with Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Labor, and mining/gas companies such as EQT and CONSOL Energy to develop new federal and state regulations for co-existence of gas wells and mines; impacts 1000+ unconventional wells
- ♦ Analyzed over 100 terabytes of seismic data from limestone mines using OpsPy python library; invited to Canada to share my work at the 8th ESG international micro-seismic symposium

Prairie State Generating Company | Ventilation Engineer

Marissa, IL

May 2014 – Jul 2015

- Spearheaded a cross-functional team of 7 to design and manage the ventilation airway network spanning over 150 miles, essential for the health and safety of over 200 miners working in the mine
- Developed and implemented predictive simulation models for improved planning and design; increasing production from 4M tons p.a. to 5.9M tons p.a. and decreasing number of regulatory citations by 25%
- Evaluated the existing long-term mine plan and found multiple issues; optimized and developed a new plan, saving \$25M in CAPEX and \$400K p.a. in OPEX; presented to the C-Level executives from 9 public utility agencies in the Midwest U.S.

University of Utah | Research and Teaching Assistant

Salt Lake City, UT Aug 2012 – May 2014

- Implemented operations management and genetic algorithm to develop a software for optimal placement of booster fans; improved the location accuracy by 60% and reduced the computation time by several days
- ◆ Drafted a research proposal and secured \$300K funding for R&D to control spontaneous combustion in underground mines
- Teaching assistant for the finance, hydraulics and ventilation courses; awarded the best teaching assistant award

HONORS

Excellence in Government Award (EEO Diversity and Inclusion)

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2018

Recognized by the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board for employee outreach and community service efforts at the CDC, nominated among the 20,000 Federal employees in the Greater Pittsburgh region

CDC NIOSH Diversity Star Award

Washington, DC

Jul 2017

Awarded for contributions towards enhancing diversity efforts at CDC, by mentoring junior/senior staff, creating opportunities for others to grow, obtaining public/private perspectives, and bringing all cultures together with energy and enthusiasm

LEADERSHIP

Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America (PCMIA) | Board of Director Canonsburg, PA Jul 2019 - Present Organized the 133rd PCMIA annual conference with more than 250 attendees. PCMIA provided more than \$10,000 scholarships to high school and university students. Established in 1887, among the oldest and most prestigious organizations in mining

Society of Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration | Young Leaders Committee Denver, CO Dec 2015 – Present Led professional and career development programs such as webinars, leadership presentations, and field trips for engineers

Emerging Leaders Alliance

Falls Church, VA

Nov 2016

Selected in top 80 young leaders in the world from leading science-based organizations to attend the leadership conference