



SOUTH DAKOTA  
**MINERAL**  
**INDUSTRIES**  
ASSOCIATION

***"A Unified Voice to Educate, Communicate and Advocate for the Mineral Industries in South Dakota."***

**1st ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**MAY 19, 2023**

**ELKHORN RIDGE, SPEARFISH, SD**

## SDMIA Chair – Kwinn Neff, Community Relations Agnico Eagle

### SDMIA Background

#### ➤ 2018 -2020

- Discussions with local industry Representatives
- Past SD Mining Association Executive Director, Dianne Miller

#### ➤ 2021

- Incorporated as a South Dakota Domestic Non-Profit Corp. IRS 501(c)3 application submitted & pending.

#### ➤ 2022

- **April** – Initial Board of Directors Meeting (6)
- **May** – Presentation at Inaugural MI Banquet, Lead
- **June** – Filled Remaining Board Seats
- **July** – Began Holding Monthly Board Meetings

# Objectives

- **Telling Our Story**
- **Media's Resource**
- **Public's Resource**
- **Educational Resource**
- **Industry's Advocate**



# 2022-2023 SDMIA Interim Board of Directors



## Officers

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Kwinn Neff, <i>Chairman</i>        | Community Relations, <b>Agnico Eagle USA</b>                     |
| Larry Mann, <i>Vice Chairman</i>   | Lobbyist, <b>Mann Strategies</b>                                 |
| Mark Bowron, <i>Treasurer</i>      | Professor, Mining & Mineral Valuation & Finance, <b>SD Mines</b> |
| Danielle Wiebers, <i>Secretary</i> | COO, <b>Pete Lien &amp; Sons</b>                                 |

## Board Members

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Tony Auld                | Operations Manager, <b>Coeur Wharf</b>   |
| Elizabeth Sailer         | VP for External Relations, <b>Dakota Gold Corp</b>                               |
| Mike Cepak               | Natural Resource Engineering Director, Retired <b>DANR Mining &amp; Minerals</b> |
| Kathy Johnson            | Senior Geochemist, <b>Barr Engineering Co.</b>                                   |
| Crystal Hocking          | Supervisor Environmental Permitting & Remediation, <b>RESPEC</b>                 |
| Dean Aurand              | President, <b>Mid Continent Testing Labs, Inc</b>                                |
| Open for East River Rep. |  |

## Advisors

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Matt Naasz    | Natural Resource Attorney, <b>Gunderson &amp; Palmer (Water)</b>    |
| Rich Williams | Natural Resource Attorney, <b>Gunderson &amp; Palmer (Minerals)</b> |
| Pat Gochmour  | Consultant, <b>Gochmour &amp; Associates</b>                        |





# 2022 Building the Foundation

## ➤ Marketing

- ✓ Logo, Branding & Website
- ✓ Event Materials
- ✓ Social Media – In Progress

## ➤ Finance

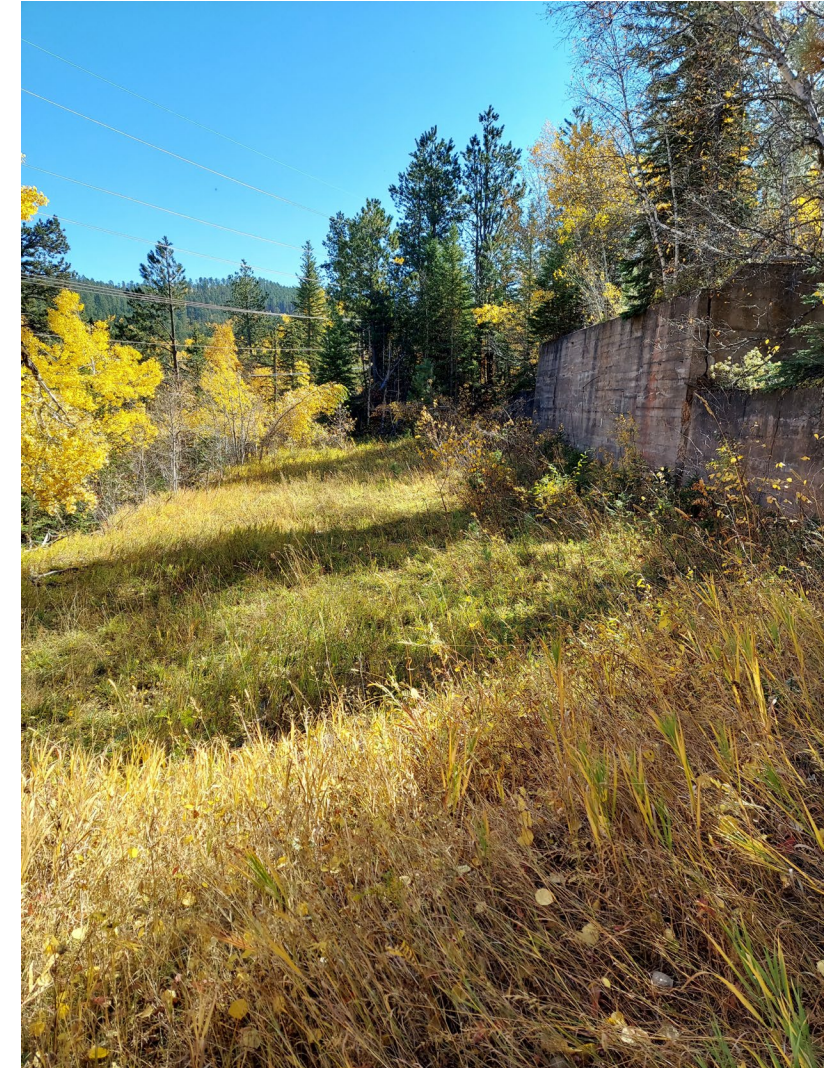
- ✓ Banking & Budget

## ➤ Education/Outreach

- ✓ Website Content – In Progress
- ✓ K-12 Event Participation

## ➤ Industry Representation

- ✓ Federal, State, County, and Local Issues
- ✓ State Legislators, County Officials, and Local Officials



# 2023 GOALS

## SDMIA Membership Outreach

- Grow Membership Base
  - East River Representation
  - Increase Membership

## Deliver Membership Value

- Build Media Relationships
- Regular Membership Updates
  - Partnership/Outreach/Education Opportunities
  - Membership/Project Highlights
  - Project Comment Link/Deadlines
- Representation & Legislative Advocacy in Pierre
- SDMIA Quarterly Newsletter
  - Legislative/Policy Updates
  - Agency/Elected Officials Contacts
  - Upcoming Events





# SDMIA Membership Report

## May 2022 through May 2023

- 4 Producers: 668 Employees
- 6 Non-producers: 105 Employees
- 5 Vendors: 265 Employees
- 9 Sole Proprietors: 10 Employees
- 7 Students, 2 Retirees, and 1 sponsorship

**Current Membership represents nearly 1,100 industry jobs in SD**



# Current Challenges Public Lands Policy Update



- **President Biden's Executive Orders, January 26th & 27th, 2021**
  - EO 13175 (2000): Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships
  - EO 14008 (2021): [\*Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad\*](#)
    - Set a goal for federal land agencies to preserve 30 percent of US lands by 2030 (aka. America the Beautiful)
    - Directed DOI and USFS to make significant policy changes and implement new guidelines for NEPA
    - Allows top officials to use more discretion over local project decisions before they are finalized
  - EO 14008 established several brand-new environmental justice [initiatives](#)
- **Joint Secretarial Order #3403 from USDA and DOI to implement Biden's EOs, November 15th, 2021**
  - Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters
  - Office of Tribal Relations elevated to the office of the Secretary for U.S.D.A, Chief of the Forest Service and other agencies.
- **Current Federal Land Agency Priorities:**
  - US Treaty Obligations
  - Conduct Meaningful Tribal Consultation
  - Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in decision making
  - Prioritize conservation, preservation and special designations



# Current Challenges Public Lands Policy Update



## US Department of Agriculture

- Secretary - Thomas J. Vilsack
- Director of the Office of Tribal Relations – Heather Dawn Thompson, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Rapid City, SD
  - Harvard Law School graduate, expert in American Indian law, tribal sovereignty, and tribal economic development
  - Appointed by the Biden Administration on Jan 25, 2021,

## US Forest Service

- Chief – Randy Moore
- Director of Tribal Relations – Reed Robinson, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Rosebud, SD
  - Works with/for Heather Dawn Thompson
  - Formerly with the NPS in South Dakota at Wind Cave, Devils Tower

## US Department of Interior

- Secretary – Deb Halland, Pueblo of Laguna

## Bureau of Land Management

- Director - Tracy Stone-Manning
- Deputy Director, Policy and Programs - Nada Wolff
  - Former VP, Public Lands and Senior Policy Counsel at the National Audubon Society
  - Former Senior Counsel and Senior Director for Policy and Planning at The Wilderness Society

## BLM Proposed rule changes to 43 CFR Parts 1600 and 6100 (Comment Period Closes - June 20th)

- Designate conservation as a formal use of public lands, on par with energy/mineral development, grazing and recreation
- Prioritize designating, conserving and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).
- Promote compensatory mitigation to offset impacts from projects and allow for NGOs to purchase conservation leases

# Current Challenges: Local Policy Issues

- **Federal - Black Hills National Forest**
  - Exploration Permitting – Organized/Funded Opposition
  - Forest Plan Revision – Mineral/Energy Draft Assessment
- **State - Legislative Session**
  - Bills to Ban Uranium and Gold Mining
  - New Pegmatite Mining Regulations - Proposed Lithium Tax
  - Rapid Creek Watershed Designation - Approx. 200,000 acres
- **County – Ordinance Changes**
  - Pennington - Hard Rock Mining Ordinance
  - Fall River County - Ballot Initiative Passed
  - Custer County – Hard Rock Mining Ordinance
- **Local – Petitions/Resolutions**
  - Rapid City – Oppose Exploration in Rapid Creek Watershed
  - Rapid Creek Watershed National Recreation Area
  - Petition for a 200,000 acre mineral withdrawal



**Custer County and Pennington  
County Residents Say -**

**STOP  
LITHIUM  
MINING**

More information at: [BHCLEANWATERALLIANCE.ORG](http://BHCLEANWATERALLIANCE.ORG) or [DAKOTAMINERAL.ORG](http://DAKOTAMINERAL.ORG)

We want to keep our clean water, fresh air,  
wildlife, tourism, and room for outdoor  
recreation. Lithium mining would negatively  
impact all these things.



# Black Hills Mining/Exploration

## Proposed exploration projects on USFS – 12 acres

- The last approved exploration Plan of Operations was in 2009 – Sundance, RER
- Currently- 5 proposed projects with a maximum disturbance of 12 total acres
- There are zero active large scale hard rock mines on the BH National Forest

## Active Large-Scale Hard Rock Mines on BHNF – 0 acres

## Mineral Withdrawal Proposals since 2009 – 41,542 acres

- Craven Canyon (2009) - Proposal to withdraw 3,968 acres to protect Cultural Resources
- RNA/BA (2015) – Proposal to withdraw 17,000 acres to protect RNA's and Botanical Areas
- Pactola (2023) - Proposal to withdraw 20,574 acres to protect cultural and natural resources.

## Challenges – Misinformation, false narratives and partnerships with national NGOs

- **1872 Mining Law** - "Allows Mining Companies to do whatever they want", "outdated law"
- **Mining Claims** - "Record amount of new Mining Claims in the Black Hills"





# 2022-23 Accomplishments & Outreach



## Policy Work

- Pennington County Mining Ordinance - Working Committee Meetings/Attend Hearings (On Hold)
- BHNH County Working Group – Review Draft Assessments, Mineral & Energy (Tracking)

## Advocate

- Invited/Attended SD Mines Legislative Reception and Mines Day at the Capitol
- SDMIA's Registered Lobbyist in 2023 – Kwinn Neff
  - HB 1072 - An Act to include lithium and pegmatite as energy minerals subject to severance tax and set the distribution of proceeds therefrom – **Killed**
  - SB 185 - An Act to establish the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States – South Dakota and revise provisions related to the foreign ownership or control of agricultural land – **Failed in Senate**
- Proposed Mineral Withdrawal – Request/Held Virtual Public Meeting

## Education

- RC Area Schools, Middle School Career Fair (SME, SDMIA)
- WISE Conference, SD Mines & Black Hills State
- Black Hills Defense Symposium, Critical Minerals Panel Discussion
- Best in the West Drill and Blast Conference

## Outreach

- Held Meet/Greets with State Officials/Legislators
- Rapid City Agriculture and Natural Resource Alliance
- Black Hill Multiple Use Coalition

# 2022-23 Accomplishments & Outreach



## **SDMIA Partnerships & Collaboration**

- Western States Mining Collaborative Council – Meeting of Directors from:
  - National Mining Association, Women's Mining Coalition, and American Exploration & Mining Association
  - Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute and American Coal Council
  - AK, AZ, CO, MN, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY State Mining Associations
- Rapid City Agriculture and Natural Resource Alliance (Deb Black)
  - Mining/exploration tour in September
- Black Hills Multiple Use Coalition (Pending)
  - Advocate for Multiple Use of Public Lands

# How to Help

- **Federal, State, and Local Government**
  - Submit Public Comments, Email Legislators, Email Commissioners
  - Natural Resource Groups/Stakeholders need to work together
  
- **Working Together – A collective positive impact**
  - Industry Supports Industry and our Local Communities
  - Donations, Community Projects and Volunteer Work
  - Improve Public Perception Through Education
  
- **Build Relationships with our Natural Resource Stakeholders**

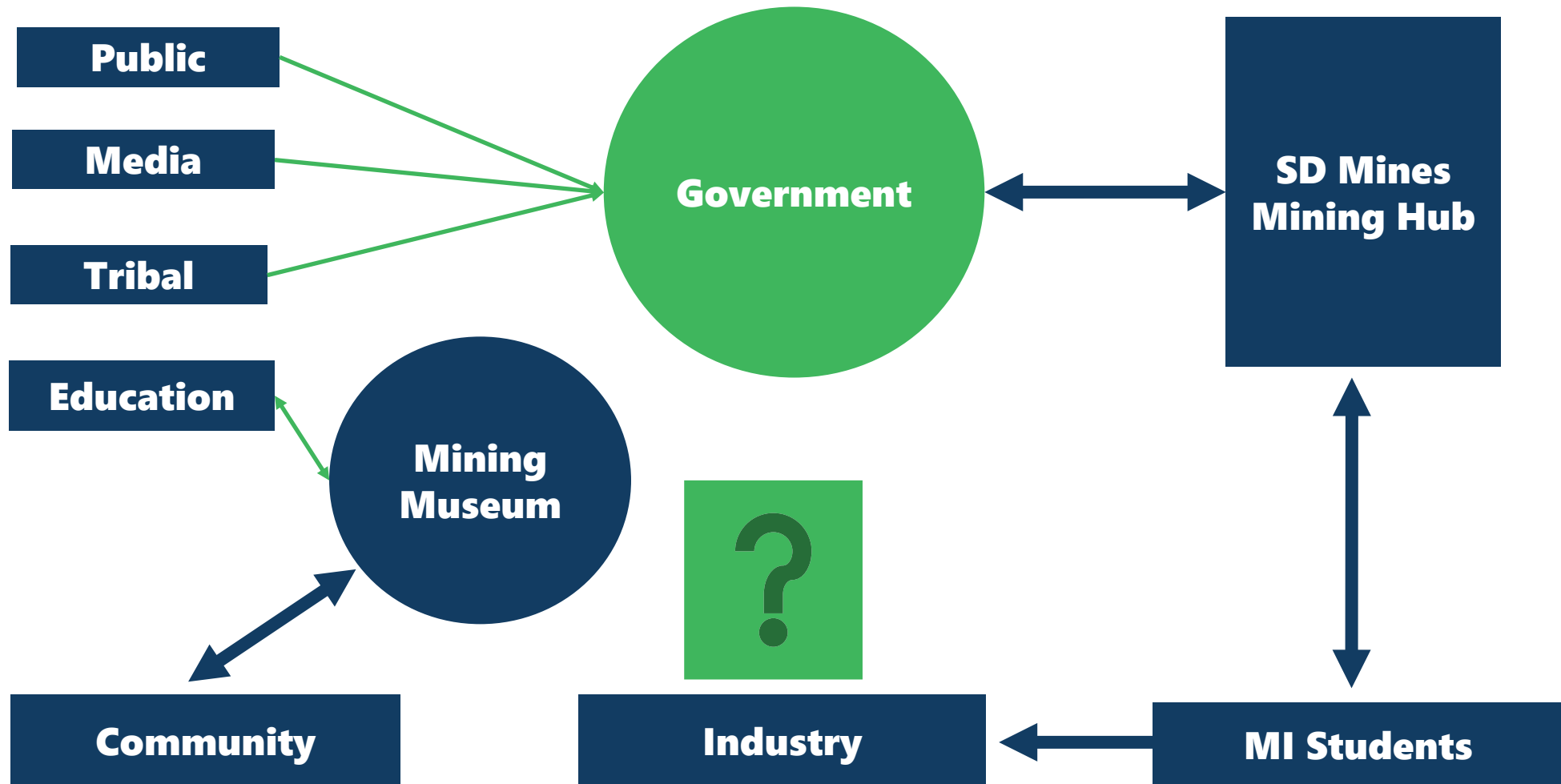


**Coming to a theatre near you!**

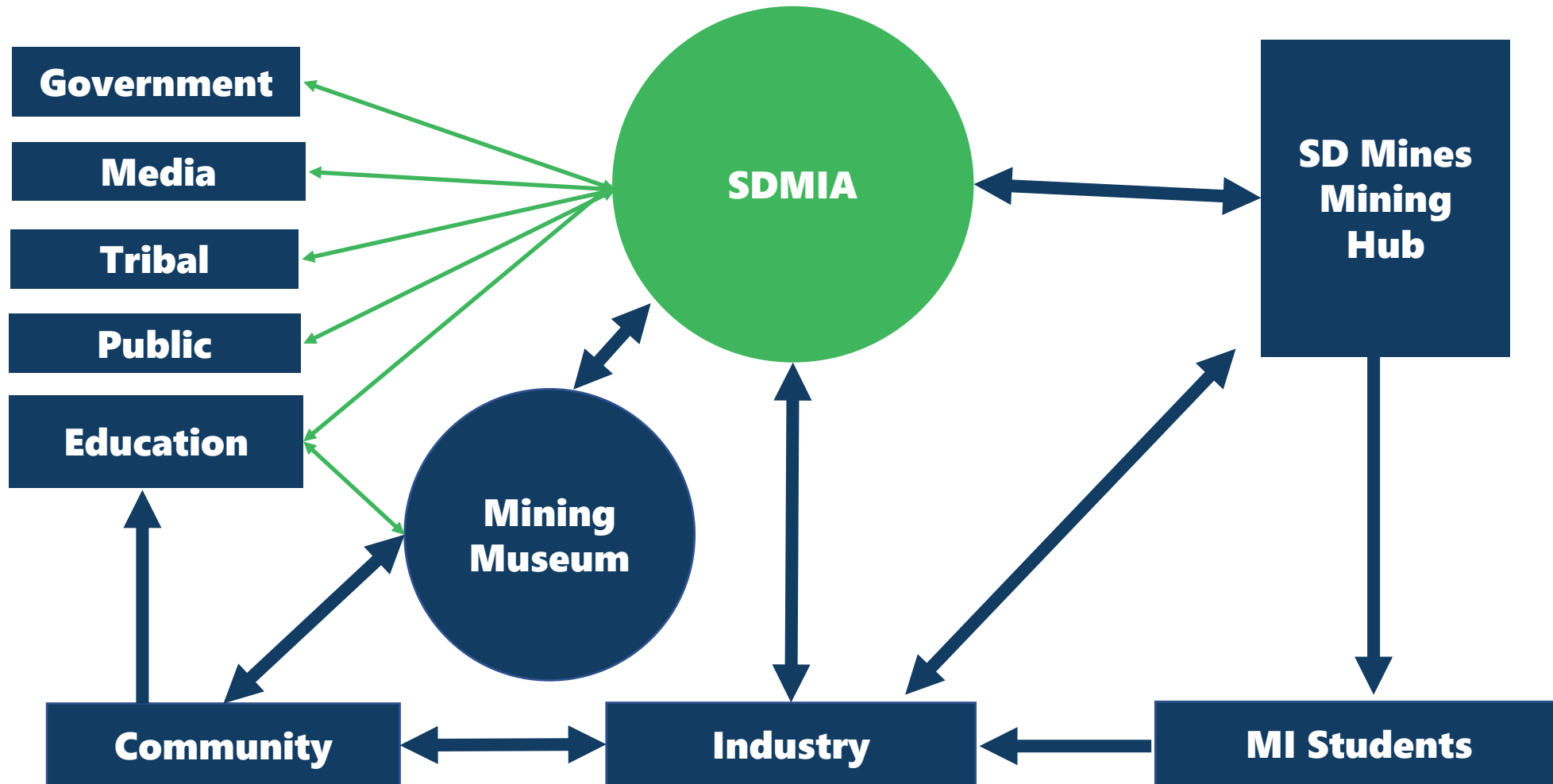
**“If you want to go fast – go alone. If you want to go far – go together.”**



# An Essential Piece



# An Essential Piece



# Membership Information



**Website:**

[www.sdmineralindustries.org](http://www.sdmineralindustries.org)

**Email:**

[info@sdmineralindustries.org](mailto:info@sdmineralindustries.org) (General)

[president@sdmineralindustries.org](mailto:president@sdmineralindustries.org) (Kwinn Neff)







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