

2008 John T. Boyd Memorial Young Engineer Award

Rebecca J. Hardy

Mining Engineer, ICG Wolf Run Mining



Rebecca J. Hardy is the recipient of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration, Inc. (SME) Pittsburgh Section's 2008 John T. Boyd Memorial Young Engineer Award. This award is given to bring recognition of engineering professionalism to young people working in the mining industry.

Rebecca began her college career in 1997 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and studied Geology for a year before transferring to West Virginia University. In 2003, she earned a B.S. degree in Mining Engineering (with a minor in Music). During the period 2003 to the present, she has been working on a M.S. Degree at West Virginia University. The focus of her studies has been on the development of a comprehensive ventilation simulation program utilizing fundamentals of computational fluid dynamics through computer programming and modeling.

Rebecca worked during the summer from 2000 to 2003 for NIOSH as both an Engineering and Physical Science Technician. She worked from the summer of 2003 to the end of 2006 at West Virginia University as a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant. From December 2006 to June 2007, she worked as a Safety Inspection Specialist for West Virginia University. In May 2007, she was hired with ICG as a summer intern to perform time-study observations. At the end of the summer, she was retained to fully compile and analyze time-study data. She then served at the mine as an Engineering Intern assisting in the Safety Department as well as mapping, maintenance tracking, and additional time-study observations. In January 2008, her role in the company switched to dispatching full time for Sentinel Mine. By February 2008, she was promoted to Maintenance Coordinator in charge of equipment tracking, task-management, and planning at Sentinel Mine directly under the Maintenance Chief. In March 2008, she was promoted to Mining Engineer and was assigned to improving productivity at the operations, primarily at Sentinel Mine.

Since that time, she has managed a crew of five engineering time-study students; organized meetings & presentations for all levels of management pertaining to productivity and planning; assisted with Mine Rescue events coordination; performed as a liaison with MSHA representatives on permitting issues, Mine Rescue, and violation abatements; and established several various computer simulations for mining conditions at the Sentinel and Imperial mine operations.

Rebecca is certified as an experienced underground coal miner (West Virginia). She also received her EMT-M certification, MSHA instructor certification, WV apprentice electrician certification, dust sampling certification, methane detection and oxygen deficiency certifications for surface and underground operations, and is qualified in noise testing. She is currently studying to obtain an underground foreman and a full electrician certification.

Rebecca's goals are to complete her Master's Degree while working full-time and become a certified Professional Engineer. Ideally, she would like to gain as much experience as possible while learning the various aspects of the fossil fuels industry. Given time, she would like to obtain her Ph.D. and teach courses in engineering, mining, and coal and promote the positive aspects of the industry. When not working in the mining industry, Rebecca has also pursued her other passion – music. In fact, she has sung the National Anthem for the Pittsburgh Pirates (2004 and 2007), at Madison Square Garden (2007) for the WVU Men's Basketball NIT Tournament, the Washington Wild Things Semi-Pro Baseball Team, as well as several other WVU collegiate sporting events.