

2009 SME Pittsburgh Section Student Grant Award

Robert Richard Burns

Pennsylvania State University



Robert Richard Burns is a sophomore mining engineering student at the Pennsylvania State University with a 3.96 grade-point average (4-point scale). He has been active in the Penn State Mining Society (SME Student Chapter) and led a drive to form the Penn State Student Chapter of the International Society of Explosives Engineers, which led to his election as president. He is a member of the new Penn State mine rescue team, which was formed at the end of the Spring 2009 semester, and is now meeting regularly in preparation for participation in upcoming competitions. Robert worked his first summer with CONSOL Energy, primarily at the Enlow Fork mine under an 11-week rotation of operations, and participated in the Leadership Class, the Hatfield Plant Tour, and the CNX Gas Tour. Feedback from Consol was strongly positive about his demeanor and work ethic. He has received multiple academic honors and is a member of four honor societies. Of particular note are the two minors he is pursuing in addition to the mining engineering B.S. degree: One in Global Business Strategies and the other in Geosciences. Robert plans upon completion of his undergraduate education at Penn State, to further his education with an MBA and an M.S. in Mining Engineering. His ultimate goal is to lead a successful career in the mining profession and most likely the coal industry. Robert notes that coal has gotten a bad reputation over the years as a dirty source of energy. Reversing this image will prove challenging, but in the years to come he believes that coal will continue to be a leading energy source and a major player in the power of this nation.

Logan Hall

West Virginia University



Logan Hall has an overall GPA of 3.63 at West Virginia University and is demonstrating his leadership by serving as the President of the SME Student Chapter. Logan attended Wyoming East High School, New Richmond, WV where he graduated 4th in his class of 133, with a GPA of 4.18

He is strongly committed to the mining profession, and has worked every Summer in the coal industry. Summer experience has included:

- Cliffs Natural Resources-Pinnacle Complex where he worked as an Underground Labor and conducted surveying and engineering assignments
- Alpha Natural Resources-Brooks Run South where he worked as a certified miner (Black Hat) and did surveying and environmental work

Logan is the President – Society for Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration, WVU chapter, and is the recipient of a Promise Scholarship, a Mining Engineering Scholarship, Kids' Chance Scholarship and he also serves as a Wyoming County Toy Fund Volunteer.