



August 19, 2013

Dear Joe,

As a new school year approaches, August brings an opportunity for students to look at some impressive mining programs across the country and the benefits a career in mining offers.

Graduates from specialized mining schools, such as the Colorado School of Mines and the South Dakota School of Mines, **are among the most employable people and earn some of the highest incomes** in the country.

The average salary for a metal ore miner is \$85,504 -- **79 percent higher than the combined average of all private sector jobs**. Starting salaries in the mining industry begin around \$65,000 a year and often climb above \$100,000 a year for experienced workers. In fact, according to PayScale, a company that tracks employee compensation data, South Dakota School of Mines graduates **earn more than Harvard graduates**.

In addition to high salaries, the mining sector offers job stability. Mining is one of a handful of sectors that is expected to consistently add jobs, between 11,000 and 13,000 jobs per year, during the next 20 years. In a time of economic uncertainty, an education in mining engineering, metallurgy and materials, geological engineering or geophysics is **worth the investment**.

With much of the mining workforce nearing **retirement** and a reduced emphasis on science, technology and math in our nation's academic curriculum, **mining will need an estimated 55,000 new workers over the next five to 10 years**.

More of these well-paying positions in mining are exactly what our nation needs to set the economy back on track. Responsible development of American mineral resources is a proven solution for creating jobs now and generations to come.

Learn more about the economic opportunities mining brings by visiting the [Minerals Make Life blog](#) on our updated website.

Best regards,
Hal Quinn

To learn more about minerals and what they mean to America, visit mineralsmakelife.org.

ABOUT NMA



The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of American mining in Washington, D.C. NMA is the only national trade organization that represents the interests of mining before Congress, the administration, federal agencies, the judiciary and the media.