

## **SD Section American Institute of Professional Geologists**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **2011 J.P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award Announced**

The South Dakota Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) announced today that Dr. Edward F. Duke, professor of geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) has been named as the 2011 J. P. Gries Geologist of the Year. The award has been named in honor of Dr. John Paul Gries for his exceptional work in the field of geology and is given each year by the Section in memory of Dr. Gries, a longtime professor of geology at SDSMT. The 2011 award was presented to Dr. Duke for his many contributions in furthering the understanding of the state's geology.

Dr. Duke was born in Norwalk, CT and lived in Wisconsin for many years. He received a bachelor's degree in geology from Beloit College in 1976 and masters and doctoral degrees in geology from Dartmouth College in 1978 and 1984, respectively. Dr. Duke began teaching and conducting research at SDSMT in 1984. Dr. Duke directs undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral level student research and provides training for faculty and students in the operation of the high-tech analytical instruments housed within SDSMT's Engineering and Mining Experiment Station (EMES), which he manages. Dr. Duke utilizes and maintains a host of analytical instruments in EMES including a Zeiss scanning electron microscope and energy dispersive x-ray analyzer, and a spectroradiometer. He also oversees the Analytical Chemistry Facility which includes an atomic absorption spectrophotometer, X-ray Diffraction and X-ray Fluorescence instruments, an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer, and a fire assay lab.

Dr. Duke has authored or coauthored over 80 published papers and presentations in the field of geology and remote sensing. He is principal investigator or co-investigator on current or past grants and contracts from NSF, NASA, DOE, Universities Space Research Association, USGS EROS, American Chemical Society, SD Department of Transportation, and other funding agencies. In addition to his teaching and research activities, Dr. Duke is Director of the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium and South Dakota NASA EPSCoR Program and is Secretary of the Executive Committee, National Council of Space Grant Directors.

Dr. Duke's quarter century of work at SDSMT has significantly contributed to the geological research infrastructure of South Dakota. He has provided invaluable technical assistance and analytical services to dozens of on-and-off campus faculty who use the high-tech instrumentation at EMES as part of their research projects which extend well beyond the field of geology into other areas of science and engineering; notably nanotechnology. He also works with SDSMT

private sector partners on both research and commercial projects which augments the ability of SDSMT to successfully host additional research projects on campus.

Previous J. P. Gries award recipients include State Geologist Derric Iles of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) Geological Survey Program, Fred Steece of the SD DENR Oil & Gas Program, and Dr's. James Fox, Alvis Lisenbee, J. Foster Sawyer, Perry H. Rahn, and Jack Redden of SDSMT.



CAPTION: Dr. Edward F. Duke (left) 2011 "J. P. Gries Geologist of the Year" award winner and SD Section AIPG President Dr. Larry D. Stetler (right). Award presented April 30, 2011 in Rapid City, SD.

*Photo by Tom Durkin*