

Chair, Board of Trustees  
December 15, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
MINING ENGINEERING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointments of Mr. Jeff Brock, Mr. David Hibbs, Mr. Nick Rogers and Mr. Chad Weems to the University of Kentucky Mining Engineering Foundation Board of Directors for a two-year term ending June 30, 2022.

Background: The Nominating Committee of the University of Kentucky Mining Engineering Foundation, which includes the dean of the college of engineering, recommended these appointments to the provost. These recommended appointments require approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the University of Kentucky Mining Engineering Foundation approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on December 14, 1982. These nominations are supported by the president and provost.

Biographical sketches of the appointees are attached.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Bios for University of Kentucky Mining Engineering Foundation, Inc.  
Board of Directors**

**Nicholas “Nick” S. Rodgers**

Nick Rodgers is the executive director of the Kentucky Crushed Stone Association (KCSA), a role he has served since 2015. Nick works to ensure the Association is a strong resource for its members and an effective advocate for the construction aggregate industry across the state of Kentucky. He remains active in the legislative and regulatory arenas, aligns both internal and external communications activities with the Association’s goals and demonstrates KCSA’s value to the aggregate industry. Nick joined the highway association industry in 2009, where he served as the Marketing Director for the Plantmix Asphalt Industry of Kentucky until joining the KCSA in 2015. Before joining the association management profession, Rodgers was a Marketing Director for a diecast toy company selling diecast toys all over the world.

A Kentucky native, Rodgers earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Kentucky State University. Active in his community and state, he is a board member of the Association of General Contractors Self Insurers Fund and the Kentucky Construction Industry Trust. Rodgers is also an executive committee member of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association and is currently the chairman of the Aggregate and Concrete Executives (ACE), an organization made up of state aggregate and concrete executive director’s from all around the country.

**Jeffrey D. Brock**

Jeffrey D. Brock, P.E. received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kentucky in 1991. During his time at UK, Mr. Brock was active in the Norwood Student Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME), serving as chapter president in 1990-91. He was recognized as the most outstanding graduate in Mining Engineering by the “Old Timers Society” and won the SME’s Student Paper Contest for his work on “Blast Casting in Surface Mining.”

Upon graduating from UK in 1991, with a BS in mining engineering, Mr. Brock accepted a position as mine engineer with Costain Coal Inc. in Oakman, Alabama. In 1994, he returned to Lexington, Kentucky to work for MAPCO Coal Inc, the predecessor to Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. Over his past 31 years in the coal industry, Jeff has served as heavy equipment operator, surveyor, Project Engineer, Manager of Permitting, and General Manager and Vice-President of Business Development. During this time, he earned this Master of Business Administration from Webster University in 1998 and provided testimony to the National Research Council – Committee on Coal Waste Impoundments in 2002.

Mr. Brock continues to be part of the Alliance Management team – led by President and CEO, Joe Craft – who has grown Alliance from 20 million tons of annual coal production

and 400 million tons of coal reserves in 2003 to over 40 million tons of annual coal production and 1.7 billion tons of coal reserves in 2018.

### **David W. Hibbs**

David Hibbs is the vice president of mining for the Prairie State Generating Company (PSGC). In his role, he is responsible for the overall direction, management and operations of the Lively Grove coal mine, the adjacent underground mine which feeds the Prairie State Energy Campus power plant. Mr. Hibbs has an extensive background in the coal mining industry, with over 30 years of mine management experience. His career spans both underground and surface mine operations, where he has led strategic planning efforts and spearheaded the construction of several new mines.

Mr. Hibbs joined the Prairie State team in July 2019. Before making the commitment to PSGC, he held the positions of manager of business development and manager of the West Kentucky Business Unit for Murray Energy Corporation. Prior to this, he was chief operating officer at La Luna Mining; in this role, he was responsible for design, construction, and operation of a new underground mining project in Bogota, Colombia. Past positions include president and director of engineering for Utah American Energy, engineering manager for United Coal Company, operations manager for Twin Ridge Development, and vice president of engineering for Solomon Mining Company. Prior to 2001, he held various upper management positions in mines across Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

Mr. Hibbs earned a BS and MS in mining engineering from the University of Kentucky and holds an MBA from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### **Chad Weems**

Chad Weems received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Kentucky in 2010. Originally from the coal fields of Eastern Kentucky, he witnessed all of his family and friends working in or around the coal industry, which influenced him to become a mining engineer.

Upon graduation, Mr. Weems moved to West Virginia following work in the coal industry where he held multiple advancing positions and attained his Professional Engineering License. He transitioned from coal to the construction aggregate industry with Martin Marietta Materials. During his tenure with Martin Marietta he earned a master's degree in Business Administration from West Virginia University, while progressing steadily to his current position of Ohio district production manager with Martin Marietta Materials, responsible for Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. He and his wife reside in Walton, Kentucky with their three children.