

OUTLOOKS IN EARTH AND PLANETARY MATERIALS

INVITED CENTENNIAL ARTICLE

Assuring the future of mineralogy

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ABSTRACT



As the *American Mineralogist* and the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) approach their centennials, troubling indicators cast a shadow on the future of the mineralogical sciences. These indicators include decreases in grant funding for research in mineralogical disciplines, a lack of attention to mineral resources, trends in Ph.D.'s awarded in the Earth sciences, and the lack of emphasis on the Earth sciences in state educational policies. Some of these problems can be traced to a lack of scientific literacy among the public and policy makers. Others can be attributed to actions or inactions by those whose research or teaching involves minerals. MSA and its members must do more to educate students, colleagues, and the public about the mineralogical sciences and their importance to the well being of society. If we are proactive and imaginative in promoting our science, the “future of mineralogy” can be assured.

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