

The American Institute of Professional Geologists, South Dakota Section

Awards

The AIPG South Dakota Section Lifetime Achievement Award

To

Dr. Perry H. Rahn, CPG-3724

It is my great pleasure and utmost honor to nominate Dr. Perry H. Rahn, CPG-3724, for the inaugural presentation of the AIPG South Dakota Section Lifetime Achievement Award. Since becoming a member of the South Dakota Section in 1977, Dr. Rahn has supported AIPG through outstanding field trips, publications and contributions to *The Professional Geologist*, and mentorship for many current members of AIPG in South Dakota as well as other sections across the nation. Dr. Rahn influenced thousands of students as a professor at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, and he is the author of the classic geological engineering textbook *Engineering Geology, an Environmental Approach*. His research and publications pertain to engineering geology, hydrogeology, and geomorphology, and he is particularly well respected for his research and conservation efforts for the Madison Aquifer, western South Dakota's most valuable and prolific source of groundwater. Dr. Rahn experienced the tragic flood of 1972 in Rapid City, SD, and he remains a strong advocate and supporter of efforts to alert the general public to the dangers of building on floodplains.

Below are some of the highlights of Dr. Rahn's contributions to AIPG throughout his career.

- ❖ Led the AIPG South Dakota Section 2003 field trip to pegmatite mines and exposures in the central Black Hills
- ❖ Published *The Last Glacier in the Bighorns* (Rahn, P.H., C.M. Ray, and M.W. Rahn, 2006) in *The Professional Geologist*
- ❖ Led the AIPG South Dakota Section 2007 field trip to pegmatite mines and exposures in the central Black Hills
- ❖ Co-led the AIPG South Dakota Section 2009 field trip focused on the hydrogeology of the east-central Black Hills
- ❖ Was awarded the AIPG South Dakota Section 2010 *J. P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award*
- ❖ Led a field trip during the 2012 National AIPG meeting in Rapid City, SD, titled *Paleofloods and Hydrogeology of the Black Hills: 40th Anniversary of the 1972 Rapid City Flood*
- ❖ Led the AIPG South Dakota Section 2025 field trip to Gold Mountain in the central Black Hills

It is with the greatest appreciation of Dr. Rahn's longtime support for AIPG, his impact on countless geology and geological engineering students, and his outstanding contributions in geological engineering, hydrogeology, and geomorphology that I am honored to nominate and present him with the AIPG South Dakota Section Lifetime Achievement Award.

J. Foster Sawyer, CPG-10,000
AIPG South Dakota Section President
September 27, 2025