

ANNOUNCEMENT



DONOVAN SYMOND'S AWARDED ERSKINE RAMSAY MEDAL

May 2006

SALT LAKE CITY, UT - MAY 2006 Norwest Corporation Chairman, Donovan F. Symonds received the 2006 Erskine Ramsay Medal by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME). The award was presented at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis in April 2006.

The Erskine Ramsay medal was established in 1948 to recognize distinguished achievements in the coal mining industry. Previous recipients include Irl Engelhardt and Bobby Brown, former Chief Executives of Peabody Coal Co. and Consolidation Coal Co., respectively, and Dr. Raja Ramani, Professor Emeritus of Mining and Geo Environmental Engineering at Penn State University. SME has over 11,500 members in nearly 100 countries.

"Symonds has earned the award for his distinguished achievements as an engineer, entrepreneur, researcher and consultant in coal and energy resulting in furtherance of innovative practical solutions to many aspects of the expanding international energy industry," said award presenter Dr. Alan Cramb - President of AIME.



**Donovan Symonds (l) receiving award
from Dr. Alan Cramb (r)**

In addition to the Ramsay award, Donovan was elected to serve for a two-year term as President of the Coal Preparation Society of America (CPSA). Symonds is a co-founder of Norwest Corporation, an international energy minerals consulting company serving the coal, oil sands, oil shale and oil and gas industries. Symonds is based out of the Norwest's head office in Salt Lake City, Utah.