



S. Komar Kawatra

Professor, Chemical Engineering, Michigan Technological University
Distinguished Member, Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration

Biography

S. Komar Kawatra is an accomplished researcher and educator. His primary area of research is in chemical engineering, focusing on mineral processing, process instrumentation, and the remediation and utilization of industrial wastes. His philosophy while teaching is to keep the needs of his students as his foremost concern, which is exemplified during his time at Michigan Technological University.

S. Komar Kawatra became an associate professor at Michigan Tech in 1977 and a full Professor in 1985. He chaired the Department of Mining and Materials Processing Engineering from 2000-2002, when the department was merged into other academic departments. He was primarily responsible for bringing mineral processing into the Department of Chemical Engineering at Michigan Tech and Chaired the Department from 2007-2017. During his time as Chair, the Department as a whole and the Mineral Processing minor he introduced flourished.

Kawatra has received numerous honors and awards, including the Gaudin Award from the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, the Frank F. Aplan Award from the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum Engineers, the Robert H. Richards Award from the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum Engineers, the Taggart Award from the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration. He has also received award for research and education, including being the first recipient of Michigan Tech's Graduate Student Mentor Award in 2002. Kawatra has published over 200 technical publications, has received several patents, and has edited or authored 10 books, including "Advanced Coal Preparation and Beyond: CO₂ Capture and Utilization".

Kawatra serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy Review journal. He has served as Editor-in-Chief for the Minerals & Metallurgical Processing journal, and on the editorial boards of several other journals. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration from 1997-2000 and served Chair of the Mineral Processing Division of the society. He is also the director of the Advanced Sustainable Iron and Steelmaking Center at Michigan Tech.