

WAAIME Chair Column:

Midyear meeting was a howling success

Just coming off the SME Midyear Meeting, I could not be more pleased with where WAAIME is today and where we are going in the future. Held Sept. 12–14 at the DoubleTree in Greenwood Village, CO, this intimate gathering of SME’s leadership kicked off with a warm reception at SME Headquarters, the hub supporting our WAAIME Division.



Barb Filas
2025 WAAIME Chair

Portfolio performance: As of Aug. 31, 2025, our portfolio stood at \$9.5 million, with more than \$250,000 in operational cash flow and an eight percent year-to-date return.

FY 2025–26 Outlook: SME CFO Michelle Hegarty projected a \$22,000 surplus by fiscal year-end, a welcome turnaround after a rocky first half.

Fund clarification: Hegarty’s deep dive into our fund classifications uncovered a pre-merger accounting error. Interest from restricted funds had been misclassified but was corrected in 2016, freeing those funds for operational use.

WAAIME outreach meeting

Saturday morning marked our first-ever outreach meeting. Over breakfast, we reintroduced our executive committee, shared updates on strategic planning, and highlighted new initiatives like Careers That Rock!, the Rebecca Bweupe-Siwale memorial scholarship, and Lima’s mentoring and industry partnerships. We explored synergies with other SME divisions and were honored by the attendance of nine SME Presidents — past, present, and future. Even the Governance and Public Affairs Committee paused its meeting to join us. Thank you all.

The enthusiastic response delayed our finance meeting by 30 minutes — a welcome sign that our message resonated.

Finance meeting highlights

New company, same trust: Longtime advisors Tom Austin and Ryan Smith transitioned from UBS to RBC Wealth Management. WAAIME — and SME as a whole — followed them, ensuring continuity without fees or asset changes.

Executive Committee Midyear Meeting highlights

Guidelines approved: One of my priorities over the past couple years has been to increase the transparency of WAAIME activities. During the midyear meeting, the executive committee unanimously approved four new guidelines — for the Iris Owen Fund, LinkedIn posts, nominations, and our Selfie Tag Contest — adding to our operations handbook. These flexible documents support transparency and best practices. Please take a look at them, and our operations handbook, online at www.waaime.org/AboutUs.

International Founder’s Award: The Founder’s Award was established in 2014 to recognize members who have contributed significantly to a local WAAIME section, committee, or goals and purposes set forth in WAAIME’s incorporation and vision statement. To better honor global members, we have created an International Founder’s Award for Chile, Mexico, and Peru. U.S. recipients will be recognized at the MINEXCHANGE SME Annual Conference; international honorees at local industry events.

(Continued on page 3)



The WAAIME outreach meeting drew strong attendance from SME volunteer leaders interested in exploring new WAAIME initiatives.



Investing in the future: \$365,000 in WAAIME Scholarships awarded

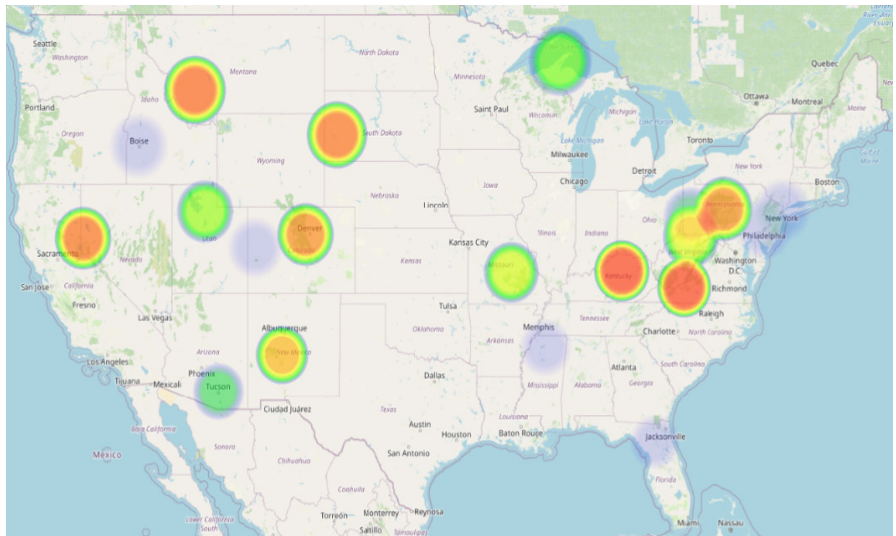
by Lydia Hull

As part of our 2025 commitment to supporting the next generation of Earth Science professionals, WAAIME is proud to announce the awarding of \$365,000 in scholarships to 197 students from 20 universities across the United States. These funds have helped cover tuition, purchase books, update materials, and more — ensuring students have the tools they need to succeed.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that the next application cycle will open Jan. 1 - Jan. 25, 2026. Students, please mark your calendars.

Apply online at www.waaime.org.

Eligibility this year includes second-semester freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and master's students enrolled in Earth Science or extractive industry programs. Applicants must be full-time students. Only one reference will be required, which may come from a department head, advisor or professor.



Visualizing the reach of WAAIME scholarships across the United States — 197 students supported in 2025.

We look forward to another successful year of supporting future leaders in the extractive industries. ■

30 years of impact; Young scholarship winners inspire

by Jean Davin, Pennsylvania Western WAAIME Section Chair

For more than three decades, the Lewis E. and Elizabeth W. Young Scholarships have helped shape the future of the extractive industries by supporting students pursuing degrees in mining, metallurgical, petroleum engineering, and materials science, attending the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, West Virginia University and Virginia Tech.

The Pennsylvania Western WAAIME Section is pleased to announce that \$21,000 will be awarded in scholarships to undergraduate students who demonstrate both merit and commitment to their field. Eligible recipients receive awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to help advance their academic journey.

These scholarships are made possible through a trust held by the American Institute of Mining,



Virginia Tech students proudly receive Lewis E. and Elizabeth W. Young Scholarships from the Western Pennsylvania WAAIME Section.

Metallurgy, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) and administered by the Western Pennsylvania Section of WAAIME — continuing a proud legacy of investing in the next generation of industry leaders. ■

Help shape WAAIME's future: Nominate a leader today

by Barbara Filas

Are you ready to help shape the future of WAAIME? We are now accepting nominations for the following positions:

- 2027 Chair-Elect-Designate
- 2028 Scholarship Vice Chair
- 2028 International Vice Chair

To better prepare incoming leaders, WAAIME has introduced one-year, non-voting transition roles that lead directly into officer positions on the executive committee. These roles are designed to build leadership capacity and ensure continuity across WAAIME's core programs.

Chair-Elect-Designate. This position is filled annually and serves a one-year term before rotating into the three-year Chair-Elect to Chair to Past Chair cycle.

Nomination Deadline: Dec. 31, 2025

Scholarship and International Vice Chairs

These positions are filled every three years and serve a one-year term before stepping into their respective Chair

roles for the three-year terms.

Term start: March 1, 2028.

Nomination Deadline: Dec. 31, 2026

To nominate, submit the following materials:

- A nomination letter (or letter of interest for self-nominations) describing your relationship with the nominee and why they are a strong candidate (400-word limit).
- A brief biography highlighting the nominee's contributions to WAAIME, especially in scholarship or international efforts (300-word limit).
- A high-resolution photo of the nominee (.jpg, .png, or .tiff format).

Read more about our nomination guidelines at www.waaime.org/.

Let's build a strong leadership pipeline to guide WAAIME's mission to support the extractive industries community. Nominate someone today who can lead us into the future. ■

Chair

(Continued from page 1)

The first award will be given in 2027.

AIME Outreach: Building on our SME Midyear outreach meeting's success, we will present WAAIME's programs and initiatives to the AIME Board of Trustees later this year. AIME is comprised of four member societies 1) SME, 2) the Society of Petroleum Engineers, 3) The Metallurgical Society, and 4) the American Institute of Iron and Steel Technology. WAAIME continues to serve all four AIME societies through scholarships and services.

SME strategic planning

SME will be updating its strategic plan in the coming year. Two events were held to brainstorm topical priorities for the Society in the near term: 1) a general session for all Midyear Meeting participants was held on Saturday afternoon, and 2) a breakfast session among all Division Chairs was held Sunday morning. Based on the outcomes of both sessions, WAAIME's Vision to help solve the workforce challenges of the extractive industries is perfectly aligned with SME's priorities.

Finally, in addition to the written report that WAAIME



SME and WAAIME leadership meet in Denver September 2025. L to r: Jackie Herrera, David Kanagy, Mary Korpi, Barb Filas, Bill Hancock, Melissa Russell and Lydia Hull.

submitted to the SME Board of Directors for their Midyear Meeting, I orally presented a summary of WAAIME's Midyear Meeting at the Board meeting emphasizing our recent accomplishments. It was a very busy weekend, but the enthusiasm for WAAIME made it all worthwhile. ■

WAAIME congratulates its scholarship recipients



WAAIME proudly recognizes these outstanding students from West Virginia University, recipients of 2025 scholarships for their dedication to Earth Science and mining-related studies.

Diana Camila Vargas Moreno, Braden Kiesel, Nathaniel Flowers, Jackson Smith, Justin Waybright, Tanner Clark, Samantha Roark, Liam Dwyer

Students from South Dakota Mines were honored with WAAIME scholarships in 2025, supporting their academic journey in mining and extractive industry programs.

Jonathan Sabetti, Bayler Larson, Gavin Lukitsch, Tyler White, Stephen Gebes, Eleanor Hester, Caleb Oppelt



WAAIME celebrates these University of Utah students for earning 2025 scholarships and pursuing excellence in Earth Science and engineering disciplines.

Bradyn Bath, Mauro Ormeno, Austin Taylor, Alejandro, Cintia Alves, Eric Starkey, Lola Nielson, Trey Robison

Officers;

WAAIME elects 2026 Executive Committee officers

by Margaret Mansanti

At the WAAIME Executive Committee meeting held on Sept. 25, 2025, elections were conducted for three officer positions whose terms will begin on February 24, 2026. Past Chair Margaret Mansanti presided over the process in accordance with WAAIME's governance guidelines.

We are pleased to announce the following election results:

- Chair Elect – Allison Coppel
- Scholarship Chair – Pamela Swendseid
- International Chair – Mayerling Zambrano

These leaders will join Chair Jaqueline Herrera and Past Chair Barbara Filas to make up the 2026 WAAIME Executive Committee.

Spotlight on New Officers

Allison Coppel, Chair Elect. Coppel brings more than two decades of global mining leadership experience, with expertise spanning sustainability, social performance, and community relations across six continents. Founder and principal consultant of Pacha Associates, she has also held senior positions with BHP, Teck, Anglo American, and Newmont. Coppel is multilingual, deeply committed to advancing education, and has been an active WAAIME member since 2023, launching WAAIME's LinkedIn presence and helping elevate the division's communications. Her collaborative style and global perspective will strengthen WAAIME's ability to prepare future generations for careers in mining.

Pamela Swendseid, Scholarship Chair. Swendseid has been actively involved in WAAIME for more than 30 years, beginning with the Morenci Section in Arizona and more recently serving as co-chair of the national scholarship committee. A nurse practitioner and faculty member at the University of Colorado, she brings exceptional organizational and mentoring skills, along with a deep family connection to the mining industry. Swendseid has worked tirelessly to support WAAIME's scholarship process, and her leadership will ensure continued excellence in managing one of the largest stand-alone scholarship programs in the mining industry.

Mayerling Zambrano, International Chair. Zambrano is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 25 years of



**Chair Elect -
Allison Coppel**



**Scholarship chair-
Pamela Swendseid**



**International chair-
Mayerling Zambrano**

experience in financial auditing and consulting for mining, oil & gas and energy companies. Based in Lima, Peru, she has held senior leadership roles with PwC and KPMG and is widely recognized for her expertise in financial governance and mentoring women in mining. Since joining WAAIME in 2015, Zambrano has organized networking programs, industry round tables, and student mentoring initiatives that reflect WAAIME's vision of investing in future leaders. Her energy and international networks will help strengthen WAAIME's global presence.

Carrying forward the legacy

This year marked the first full cycle since the 2023 Omnibus Resolution when all five executive committee members served in their designated roles: Past Chair Margaret Mansanti, Chair Barbara Filas, Vice Chair Jaqueline Herrera, Scholarship Chair Lydia Hull, and International Chair Susana Palomino, with Pamela Swendseid in the non-voting role of Scholarship Vice Chair. Together, this team carried forward WAAIME's proud legacy.

The 2026 Executive Committee is poised to continue that work, united by WAAIME's vision to "invest in students of all ages to help solve the workforce challenges of the extractive industries."

Since 1917, WAAIME has lived that mission by offering scholarships, elevating awareness of mining careers, and building partnerships across industry and education. With a growing membership and a dedicated leadership team, the future of WAAIME is bright. ■

Scholarship Recipient Testimonials

Your contributions truly make a world of difference for me, and I am truly thankful.

Nathaniel - West Virginia University



Iris Whinnen-Owen named 2025 Founder's Award recipient;

A lifetime of leadership

by Barbara Filas

I am delighted to announce Iris Whinnen-Owen as WAAIME's 2025 Founder's Award recipient. As a member for more than 50 years, Whinnen-Owen has witnessed the growth of WAAIME's scholarship portfolio and the challenges of sustaining its operations. In the early 2000s, when WAAIME's future was uncertain, Whinnen-Owen — then serving as president — led the bold decision to merge with SME. Recognizing SME as a fellow 501(c)(3) with shared roots in American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), Whinnen-Owen saw it as the ideal home to preserve WAAIME's mining-focused legacy.

She worked tirelessly with SME leaders and legal teams to craft a merger plan that protected WAAIME's

independence, scholarship portfolio, and heritage. That plan became effective on March 31, 2008, officially establishing WAAIME as a Division of SME.

Since the merger, Iris has remained deeply involved. She and Jean Davin launched the WAAIME Silent Auction, donating jewelry and other items, and dedicating countless hours at the SME Annual Meeting booth to raise funds for local sections and student emergencies. The Iris Owen Fund, named in her honor, continues to support students facing unexpected financial challenges.

Never shy about sharing her views and always advocating for students in the extractive industries, Iris embodies the spirit of the Founder's Award. Her leadership during the merger, her generous contributions to the Silent Auction, and her decades of volunteer service have significantly furthered WAAIME's mission and strategic goals — making her a truly deserving recipient of WAAIME's highest honor. ■



Iris Whinnen-Owen

Founders Award Citation

A dedicated member since 1972, Iris has been a driving force behind WAAIME's evolution and enduring legacy. Her visionary leadership during the merger with SME ensured WAAIME's values and mission would thrive for future generations. As WAAIME Chair, mentor, and advocate for students in extractive industries, Iris has shaped the organization through decades of service, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment. Her historical knowledge, candor, and passion for WAAIME make her a truly deserving recipient of the Founder's Award."

Students at Montana Tech explore the world of extractive industries through immersive VR technology — part of a Careers That Rock initiative funded by WAAIME to inspire future industry professionals.



WAAIME's Career's That Rock; Initiative expands nationwide

by Barbara Filas

Careers That Rock!, WAAIME's newest outreach program, launched last February following successful pilot programs at Montana Technological University and Pennsylvania State University. This initiative encourages universities offering extractive industry degrees to reach out to secondary school students to introduce them to the exciting careers available in mining, metallurgy, petroleum, engineering and related fields.

As reported in our Spring Newsletter, the WAAIME Executive Committee approved \$30,900 in grants for 2025 to support outreach programs at:

- Montana Technological University
- Pennsylvania State University
- West Virginia University
- Missouri University of Science & Technology
- University of Utah

In return for the funding, WAAIME asked each university to:

- Recognize WAAIME as a program sponsor
- Submit a brief report by Jan. 31, 2026, including:
- Student participation statistics (by grade level and gender identity)
- Program effectiveness and value to participants
- Student feedback and testimonials
- Photos of activities and events
- Any follow-up data on students who pursue extractive industry majors

Each university has been invited to present their results at WAAIME's Annual Meeting in February 2026, at the MINEXCHANGE SME Annual Conference & Expo in Salt Lake City, UT, or via video/audio conference at a later date.

These presentations are more than an activities report — it's a chance to see how WAAIME is inspiring the next generation of extractive industry professionals.

Join us to celebrate progress, share ideas, and explore how we can expand Careers That Rock! even further. ■



High school students explore the world of mining thanks to WAAIME-funded outreach at Montana Tech.



Above: WAAIME helps Penn State University connect future engineers to mining careers through real-world experiences.



Right: WAAIME partners with West Virginia University to introduce high school students to the fundamentals of virtual mining

Scholarship Recipient Testimonial

Thank you again for helping be able to afford a school as great as Mines!

Benjamin – Colorado School of Mines

Scholarship Recipient Testimonial

This scholarship will significantly ease my financial burden, allowing me to dedicate more time and focus to my coursework, research, and future goals.

Olusesan – Pennsylvania State University



Mexico

WAAIME News

WAAIME Mexico DF Section: Supporting the next generation of engineers

by **Susana Palomino**

The Mexico City section proudly celebrated the academic achievements of its scholarship recipients this year. Three students graduated with engineering degrees: Mitzi Guadalupe Rojas Sánchez in Metallurgy and Materials, Akari Reyes García in Geological Engineering, and Emiliano Valles in Metallurgy and Minerals. Continuing support is being provided to Luis Gabriel Tavera Hernández (Environmental Geological Engineering) and Marbella Alejandra Duran González (Materials Engineering). Additionally, three new students in Geological Engineering — Erevan Rosas Paredes, Andrea Guzmán Bautista, and Karyne Núñez Méndez — have joined the scholarship program.

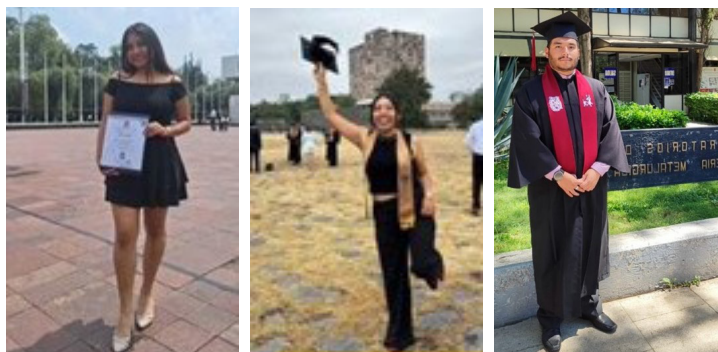
Members gathered in September at Malena de Alvidrez's home to celebrate Mexico's Independence Day and confirm the successful transfer of funds from the U.S. to support local initiatives. In October, a follow-up meeting at Esther Herrera's home included a report on the board's video conference with International Representative Susana Palomino, recognition of

WAAIME Peru's efforts, and discussion of launching a Mexico City social media page. Lucy de Morales also shared updates on the academic performance of new scholarship recipients.

With deep sorrow, the section mourns the passing of long-time treasurer Bárbara Murguía de Martínez. Her leadership, humor, and generosity left a lasting impact on WAAIME,



Bárbara Murguía de Martínez



The WAAIME Mexico City Section proudly celebrated the graduation of three scholarship recipients in 2025



WAAIME Mexico Section members enjoy coming together for social events that celebrate community, culture, and collaboration.

AIMMG, ASAC, and the many students she mentored. Bárbara's legacy as an engineer, teacher, and friend continues to inspire the community she so passionately served. ■

WAAIME Torroen Section: Investing in future mining leaders

by Rocio Hermosillo de Velasco, Torreon Section Chair

WAAIME Torreón is made up of women who are deeply committed to the objectives pursued by WAAIME International — to select and grant students of Earth Sciences. The Torreón section is subdivided into different areas, resulting in a synergy that benefits all students. The months between May to September have been very satisfactory as they were months for graduations, closing of the committee period, competition and meeting with scholarship holders. The section welcomes new member Mrs. Liliana Esther Lemus Espinoza.

Scholarships

WAAIME Torreon is pleased to announce that three students in its scholarship program graduated from the Technological Institute of La Laguna with degrees in chemical engineering, specializing in extractive metallurgy.

To connect personally with the students and learn about their academic goals and experiences, the section hosted a breakfast in August attended by all nine scholarship recipients. Dr. Adriana Gamboa, coordinator of the chemical engineering program at the institute, also joined the gathering. The section now supports eight active scholarships, continuing its commitment to educational advancement and personal engagement. The Torreón Section's scholarship program is currently led by Mrs. Beatriz Sánchez de Berumen.

Experiential learning

To provide students with hands-on exposure to the mining profession, Mrs. Conchis Cortés de Vázquez coordinated a visit to the Velardeña Mine with support from directors at Peñoles. The six scholarship recipients — one from La Salle University, three from Tec Laguna, and two from the Technological University of La Laguna de Durango — explored underground operations, the mining refuge, and the processing plant and received safety training.

Mrs. Beatriz Sánchez de Berumen and Claudia Ríos de Mascorro accompanied the students during the visit. The section extends its appreciation to Eng. José Luis González (Manager of the Velardeña Unit), Eng. Javier Berumen (Deputy Director of Mining Operations), and Victor Hernández (Human Resources Leader) for their generous support and hospitality.

Education for Tomorrow

The “Education for Tomorrow” contest invited students from three bilingual schools in Torreón — Carlos Pereyra School, Excelsior School, and Cervantes School — to write English-language essays on the element Neodymium. Each



WAAIME Mexico Section members gather monthly for administrative breakfast meetings that strengthen bonds of friendship and reaffirm their shared commitment to the organization.



Scholarship recipients explore underground operations during their guided tour of the Velardeña Mine, gaining firsthand insight into the mining profession.

school selected three winners who received a monetary prize, and the top essay overall was awarded an ounce of silver. This initiative was made possible through the coordination of Mrs. Patricia Sánchez Rodríguez, whose dedication continues to inspire student engagement in science and language learning. ■



Chile

WAAIME News

WAAIME Chile Section: Celebrating future mining professionals

by Fabiola Villablanca, International Affairs Representative

Ten students from the WAAIME scholarship program in Chile are nearing graduation with degrees in mining engineering from various universities. The scholarship has been a vital support system, helping them navigate academic challenges and build confidence in their professional futures.

Among their achievements are standout thesis projects: Javiera Huenuvil at CODELCO El Teniente analyzing tunnel stress in the Andes Norte project; Estefanía Medina at Spence developing emission traceability models; Ignacio Cornejo contributing to resource estimation at Antofagasta Minerals; and Darío Román advancing mine planning through high-performance computing at DELPHOS-AMTC. Others, like Paz Estay at Teck's Integrated Operations Center, gained insight into remote operations, while students such as Jorge Correa, Lucas Aravena, Isaí Hidalgo, Matías Opazo, and Verónica Moreno are completing final coursework and thesis milestones.



Ten WAAIME Chile scholarship students are preparing to graduate with degrees in Mining Engineering, supported throughout their studies by mentorship, funding, and professional development opportunities

These stories reflect the transformative impact of the WAAIME scholarship, empowering students to pursue careers in mining with optimism and purpose. Their accomplishments will be recognized at the upcoming year-end event, celebrating their dedication and the community's continued support. ■



Students at West Virginia University explore the fiery side of mineral processing — learning how heat and flame play a role in transforming raw materials into usable resources, thanks to a program funded by WAAIME's Careers That Rock program.

WAAIME Lima Section: Inspiring innovation through education

by Susana Palomino, Lima Peru Section Chair

On July 10, the Lima section of WAAIME proudly hosted the first scholarship ceremony of 2025, honoring students who exemplify both academic excellence and a deep commitment to shaping Peru's future through careers in Earth Sciences. This year, 24 scholarships were awarded to outstanding students from five cities—Lima, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Junín, and Cuzco—representing a diverse and promising cohort of future professionals.

The ceremony was graced by Eng. Zetti Gavelan, a representative of the Institute of Mining Engineers of Peru, along with leaders from affiliated companies, partner universities, proud parents, and the scholarship recipients themselves. Each attendee brought energy and optimism to the event, reinforcing WAAIME's mission to empower young talent in the mining and geoscience sectors.

At WAAIME, we believe in the transformative power of education. Every smile, every handshake, and every scholarship awarded reflects our identity: a network of women committed to changing lives through opportunity and mentorship. Thanks to the dedication of our women leaders, these students are now taking a firm step toward their professional futures.

In September, WAAIME also participated in the Perumin Mining Convention, where our booth became a hub for connection and collaboration. We engaged with



Lima Peru WAAIME Section hosted a booth at Perumin Mining Convention in September 2025.

numerous companies in the mining sector, strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones. Our vice-president and director of scholarships, Susana Palomino, led the coordination efforts with the support of several scholarship recipients, who helped welcome visitors and share WAAIME's story — creating memorable moments and meaningful exchanges. ■



Lima Peru WAAIME Section celebrated a record number of Scholarship recipients in 2025, including these three students.