Mustafa Can Suner – ITASCA Minneapolis

Geomechanics Engineer

Expertise

Mining Engineering, Numerical Modeling, Rock Mechanics

Education

Ph.D. Candidate, Mining Engineering, in progress
M.Sc., Mining Engineering, 2021
West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, USA

B.Sc., Mining Engineering, 2018
Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Professional Affiliations

Member: Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration

Honors

Statler Ph.D. Fellowship (2022) awarded by Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, West Virginia University for three years

ARMA Master of Science Thesis Award (2022) awarded by the American Rock Mechanics Association

Best Paper, International Conference on Ground Control in Mining (2021) awarded by ICGCM Executive Committee

Syd S. and Felicia F. Peng Ground Control in Mining Scholarship (2020) awarded by Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration

Professional Experience

2025 – Present	ITASCA Minneapolis Geomechanics Engineer
2019 – 2025	West Virginia University, Mining Engineering Department Graduate Research Assistant
2023 – 2023	ITASCA Minneapolis Consulting Intern
2022 – 2022	ITASCA Minneapolis Consulting Intern

Project Experience

Underground Mining: Conducted rock mass characterization using field surveys to develop discrete fracture network systems and validate them against the observations to assess pillar strength and failure mechanisms using synthetic rock mass approaches with multi-scale modeling. Performed analyses to understand primary fragmentation of a cave mining project and investigate the effects of hydraulic fracture spacing and orientation on primary fragmentation.

Scripting: Developed Python-based post-processing algorithms to automate and acquire meaningful information from numerical simulations. Implemented a geometrical clustering algorithm to identify discontinuity sets in underground rock masses with 3D point cloud data using Python.