



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

The Alpha Foundation is pleased to present its 2016 Annual Report.

The report provides an update on the progress made in pursuit of the Foundation's mission to improve mine health and safety through funding research and development projects by qualified academic institutions and other not-for-profit organizations.

### Grantmaking Summary

Since its beginning in 2011, the Alpha Foundation has provided 38 grants to 21 different organizations totaling \$18.5 million. This total includes six grants recently made in October, 2016 in response to the Foundation's fourth single investigator solicitation. All of the 38 grants address the four major focus areas of the Foundation, specifically:

- Safety and Health Interventions
- Mine Escape, Rescue & Training
- Safety & Health Management & Training
- Injury & Disease Exposure & Risk Factors

A complete description of the Foundation's grant portfolio can be found at [www.alpha-foundation.org](http://www.alpha-foundation.org).

### Communicating Project Outputs

An important element of the Foundation's vision to "enable miners in the future to be free of work-related injury or disease by the implementation of the results of the projects funded by the Foundation and undertaken by the best researchers from any discipline that can contribute" is to promote implementation of all appropriate results from the projects that have been supported. The Foundation encourages grantees to engage with all stakeholders in the course of the project execution, as well as to make the results available openly to the community through presentations and publication. The Foundation's website at [www.alpha-foundation.org](http://www.alpha-foundation.org) provides outputs from completed projects in the form of Final Technical Reports as well as a selection of publications and presentations. Recognizing the challenging economic situation in the mining industry, the Foundation will continue to encourage a strong linkage between grantees and the mining industry.

## Supporting Holistic Mining Safety and Health Research Efforts

Recognizing that some mining safety and health problems require more comprehensive efforts than commonly afforded by single investigator approaches, the Foundation has announced a new solicitation focused on supporting holistic mining safety and health research efforts. In particular, the goal of this solicitation is to bring a range of disciplines together to interact and provide better opportunities through synergistic efforts to solve challenging mine problems. The Foundation intends to create a “cross-disciplinary” spirit to bring the best talent together and fund comprehensive research efforts that are focused on holistic solution approaches around common goals and specific aims. The desired outcome is to expand the solution space of particular problem areas beyond what has been accomplished with traditional engineering/technological design practice or health-related exposure assessment studies. The Foundation has allocated \$8 million for this solicitation, with projects slated to begin in late 2017. The full solicitation is available at [www.alpha-foundation.org](http://www.alpha-foundation.org).

### Alpha Foundation Board of Directors

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Dr. Michael Silverstein, Technical Associate

Dr. Warren Hunt, Executive Director and Grants Manager