



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

## Press Release

### Alpha Foundation Announces \$4.5 Million for Holistic Mining Safety and Health Research Projects

November 10, 2017

Lenoir City, TN- The Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health has announced approximately \$4.5 million in additional research grant awards directed towards fulfilling its mission to improve mine health and safety through funding research and development.

The Foundation published a call for research proposals focused on Holistic Mining Safety and Health Research Efforts in October 2016. Following the submission of 34 concept papers, 10 full proposals were received and peer-reviewed, from which three have been selected by the Alpha Foundation Board of Directors. The three grants that have been awarded are listed below, and synopses of each can be found on the Alpha Foundation website at [www.alpha-foundation.org](http://www.alpha-foundation.org).

The recently funded project titles and lead institutions are:

Characteristics of Dust and Risk Factors Associated with the Development of Rapidly Progressive Pneumoconiosis and Progressive Massive Fibrosis	University of Illinois
Autonomous Underground Mining Systems to Improve Safety-Intelligent Coal Mining	University of Kentucky
A Holistic Approach to Reducing Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis (CWP) using Integrated Monitoring and Response Systems for Respirable Dust in Surface Mines and Facilities	Penn State University

The Foundation was established as part of a non-prosecution agreement entered in December 2011 by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, the United States Department of Justice and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. and Alpha Appalachia Holdings, Inc. Pursuant to that agreement, Alpha agreed to establish an independent foundation with \$48,000,000 to fund projects designed to improve mine safety and health.

For additional information please contact:

[grants@alpha-foundation.org](mailto:grants@alpha-foundation.org)