Health, Safety, and Coal Mining Jobs
Laetitia B. Kibonge, Junior, Business
Laurie Ruberg, Ph.D., Research Mentor
Charles A. Wood, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Mining and Industrial Safety Technology and Training Innovation (MISTTI) Project

-At the most basic level coal mining provides employment for local communities.
-Worldwide coal provides more than 7 million jobs
-Mining operations also bring revenues to governments.
-Coal miners, on average, earn $21.57 per hour, depending on job, experience, and geographical location. Overall, underground miners earn more than surface miners

Presentation Abstract: This research investigates the health and safety of a career as a coal miner compared to other occupations. Are coal miners more likely to suffer greater health consequences as a result of their occupational exposures than other similar occupations? How do the statistics for U.S. coal miners compare to those of other countries? Are coal mining labor positions today safer than they were 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 years ago? The Mining and Industrial Safety Technology and Training Innovation (MISTTI) project provides the context for this research. This project analyzes how other jobs such as farming, transportation industry (truck, shipping, and trains), gas production, offshore drilling can be dangerous and how they differ from coal miners jobs. This analysis compares the fatality rates of U.S. miners to rates in other countries such as Australia, South Africa, China, and South Korea. This study also includes a summary of information on safety and mining published by newspapers and websites that provide information about changes in mine safety regulations and technology improvements. Based on all the news and information gathered, the researchers present a summary of relative risk for the coal miner by country. We provide a comparison of government regulation, data management, and protection of worker safety country. This research concludes with a summary of health and safety risk, compared with the variety of benefits of coal mining jobs such as salary, job security, and opportunity for advancement.