



# AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation  
of Labor and  
Congress of Industrial  
Organizations**

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August 16, 2016

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFL-CIO TO THE NATIONAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACADEMY

Dear Brothers and sisters:

Some moments never leave you – like after a roof fall in a coal mine, when for endless seconds you hardly know if you're dead or alive. If you've ever been through something like that, the older you get, the harder it is to hear about anyone's death on the job.

Most of the time, nobody much notices when working people die for a dollar. The death tolls are often small. One over here, two over there, and another one over here.

Yet the staff and instructors of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, West Virginia, always know the value of life. For that, I'm so glad to offer my sincere congratulations and gratitude for 40 years of service. In particular, your inspectors make it possible for miners to follow the letter of the law. Training is important, because it saves lives. Still, it costs money. As working people, we rely on Academy staff to help keep miners alive in a dangerous but vital occupation.

The National Mine Health and Safety Academy is a model. You have trained tens of thousands of mine inspectors and safety professionals. I know from experience how effective your trainings are. Also, your library, archives, maps, periodicals, technical reports and photos amount to a priceless inventory of American mine and labor history. Truly, the Beckley Academy is in a league by itself. It's a national treasure.

Once again, thank you, and God bless the work you do.

In solidarity,

Richard L. Trumka  
President, AFL-CIO