

# **A FOUR-HOUR “MBA” IN MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

by

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What are the characteristics of an effective leader? Regardless of the chosen profession in business and industry, government, or academia, there are important characteristics which separate effective leaders from competent managers. For example, all professional leaders have to manage people, property, and systems while, at the same time, control the costs of doing business. That can be a daunting balancing act, particularly when there is no one right way for all professions.

Oftentimes, industry professionals turn to continuing their educations, such as pursuing an MBA, to strengthen their abilities in these areas. However, an additional degree does not always translate into desired results. Further, not everyone has the ability to pursue advanced degrees. As a result, can industry professionals still unlock the skills necessary for effective leadership, taught at our nation’s top Universities, to address their day-to-day concerns in a timely manner?

The mine health and safety professional has chosen his or her profession because they have a passion for the protection of their fellow workers. It is a noble profession, but still must address all of the issues mentioned above.

Therefore, the purpose of this seminar is to review, what I consider to be, milestones in management-science thought, as taught and practiced, and provide examples how they can be applied to provide effective leadership in mine health and safety. Through the use of discussions, examples, role plays, and case studies, the goal is to de-mystify how to provide better leadership, accountability, and cost control for this important function of mine management.