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For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha announced today that nearly 100 dislocated miners will receive training with the release of \$1.2 million in special funding he obtained for a United Mine Workers of America Career Centers program.

Project goals are to place 35 heavy equipment operators in jobs earning \$13 an hour with benefits and 52 in jobs in other high-demand occupations, such as the health care and advanced materials/metals industries, earning \$11 an hour with benefits. A total of 97 former miners will be recruited in Southwestern Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia.

"We've found an innovative solution to an old problem - returning dislocated miners back to the work force," Murtha said. "This program will help keep those jobs and those miners here at home and fill shortages in high-demand occupations that are important to the region's future."

Heavy equipment operators will be trained at an abandoned mine site and are expected to fill jobs in remediation that will help clean up the environment, Murtha said.

Clemmy Allen, UMWA Career Centers executive director, said, "Once again, Jack Murtha has come through for the UMWA and the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania. We owe him a debt of gratitude for everything he's done for miners and their families."