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Michael D. Miner* (jcmhs77@aol.com), 65 Edenbrook Drive, Hampton, VA 23666. *Engaging Adult Learners in the Application of Statistical Processes to Solve Real World Problems.*

The non-traditional learning environment primarily involves adult learners who have for various reasons returned to or initiated studies in higher education to be more competitive in a highly competitive job market. To that end, the preponderance of these adult learners seek comparable degrees relevant to career fields. The majority of the programs available to them involve a business statistics course or a related research course that introduces research and statistics used in business decision making. A key practice that is highly effective in reaching course objectives and enabling students' understanding and success is to have students research current and relevant issues associated with their work environments, collect data on key variables, apply statistical processes, and provide a detailed report on findings along with the impact on the managerial decision making structure. This presentation will show the effectiveness of incorporating current and relevant real world problems that spans the statistics course. Two sample projects will be presented to show how students were successful in implementing changes in work environments as a result of completing the class long project. (Received September 22, 2011)