

August 15, 2019

Jonathan C. Ball
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
State Capitol Complex
House Building, Suite W310
Post Office Box 145310
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Utah Legislature
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Re: Annual Financial Report for 34A-2-701
Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Funding Program

Dear Mr. Ball:

Pursuant to 1SSB15's terms (2009 G.S.), "Workers' Compensation Premium Assessment and Related Funding," please accept this letter as the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health's report of qualified donations received, as well as expenditures made, during calendar year 2018.

The purpose of this legislative initiative was to maintain the existence of the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH) at the University of Utah by providing stable funding in the face of tighter state budgets and declining state funding of the University of Utah.

Last year, the RMCOEH underwent a competitive national application for its main training grant from the Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. A panel of twenty-nine national experts rated the RMCOEH in this head-to-head competition as superior to Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Michigan. We are pleased to report that this resulted in a successful renewal of the grant – approximately \$8.4 million over the five-year period of the grant!

Application of Eddie Mayne funding support:

All Eddie Mayne funds are maintained in a separate RMCOEH account to facilitate tracking of receipts and expenditures. All funds are exclusively expended to support: graduate education and training in safety and ergonomics, industrial hygiene, and occupational medicine; continuing education programs for employers designed to promote workplace safety; or reasonable administrative, personnel, equipment, and overhead costs of our center. Receipts have been provided to all donors. Attached is a listing of receipts and expenditures for January through December 2018.

The revenues and sources generated under this funding mechanism, and a summary of the expenditures are shown in Appendix A.

Specific occupational health and safety enhancements and activities as a result of Eddie Mayne in 2018 include:

1. Provide salary support that continues to be critical to the successful operation of the RMCOEH. Without this line of donations and funding, the RMCOEH would not survive.

2. Maintain support for young faculty members.
3. We are in the processes of hiring three new faculty members (one each in Ergonomics & Safety; Industrial Hygiene; and Occupational Injury Prevention). While the primary funding source for these is from WCF Mutual Insurance Company, the opportunity to grow and develop these additional faculty with broadened expertise would not exist without these Eddie Mayne funds.
4. On the basis of this revenue, we applied for three additional extramural grants. We have continued to develop our Targeted Research Training Program, which is already completely filled with new PhD students and one post-doctoral student to train the next generation of faculty.
5. We have begun a new baccalaureate Minor in Occupational Safety and Health in the University of Utah's College of Health.
6. We now offer the master of science in occupational health (MSOH), master of occupational health (MOH), and PhD in occupational and environmental health degrees. Stable funding through the Eddie Mayne mechanism has helped the university to approve the degree program as a financially viable program. The MSOH/MOH program continues to produce increased numbers of well trained graduates with much more expertise in the various aspects of occupational safety and health. The PhD in OEH program has a small number of highly trained people who will help replace faculty as well as to provide leadership for programs in industry. This funding also assists the graduate degrees in Mechanical Engineering used by the RMCOEH's ergonomics and safety students. Our students in all of our programs are continuing to graduate with well-paid jobs.
7. These Eddie Mayne funds continue to allow faculty some time to participate in the RMCOEH's Outreach efforts, including consultations to reduce Utah worker injuries.

In summary, the RMCOEH has used the Eddie Mayne funds obtained during the twelfth year of this initiative to: (1) further strengthen our faculty; (2) support hiring 3 new faculty; (3) provide funding to implement the new baccalaureate Minor in Occupational Safety and Health; (4) initiate new efforts to support businesses; (5) continue two master degree programs and one new PhD program (in addition to pre-existing degrees in mechanical engineering); (6) continue to recruit and enroll well-qualified students.

We note that Eddie Mayne funding was reauthorized by SB14, 2018 G.S. to no longer sunset, as the oversight of the RMCOEH Advisory Board is active and present. We are grateful for this confidence in the RMCOEH.

Preliminary Request for Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Funding Program funds for 2020

In accordance with the enabling statutory requirement, the RMCOEH respectfully requests funding for the coming year from this account. We request \$172,800, which is a 2% increase over the 2019 G.S. appropriation. We have significant needs for these funds that include program growth and support for the new baccalaureate minor in OSH. Should the State of Utah's financial situation be conducive to further growth, we would respectfully request an additional supplement of \$42,000 to be used to launch a fully distance-based Master of Occupational Health program. This program would provide the educational venue for workplace safety professionals who are employed in those positions but without formal training to realize their goals and meet Utah's needs to reduce workplace injuries and fatalities both along the Wasatch Front and in rural Utah.

Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Background:

The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH) is one of the eighteen national Education and Research Centers sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). It was established at the University of Utah in 1977 and has been funded continuously by major NIOSH grants since 1978. Its mission is "*Protecting the worker and the environment through interdisciplinary education, research, and service.*"

Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety Fund 2018 Financials

2018 Revenues

Carryforward from 2017	\$ 13,375.00
State Appropriations	\$ 152,333.32

Total Revenue	\$ 165,708.32
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2018 Expenditures

Faculty /Staff Salaries/Benefits	Cheng, Phillips, Yoon, D'Entremont, Boeger, Ostler, Rees	\$ 150,062.75
Travel		\$ 6,357.78
Office Supplies		\$ 1,556.51
Printing / Photocopying		\$ 1,579.66
Other Services		\$ 1,173.75
Postage / Shipping		\$ 83.36
Rentals		\$ 1,190.00

Total Expenditures	\$ 162,003.81
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*Revenues and expenditures for this annual report are based on a calendar year, January through December 2018. The university financial reporting is based on a fiscal year, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. The balance from 2017 was expensed in 2018.

Through training graduate students in occupational safety and health disciplines, providing short courses to enable these professionals to maintain and advance their capabilities, and research, the RMCOEH helps provide Utah with a healthy and safer workforce that makes Utah businesses more competitive through reductions in workplace injuries and diseases that otherwise would cost businesses higher workers' compensation costs. For example, our graduates directly work to address the nation's occupationally related illnesses and injuries that cost more than \$240 billion annually, equal to the cost of heart disease or cancer. Each *day*, 9,000 of the nation's workers sustain disabling injuries on the job and 137 people die from work-related illnesses. Thankfully these numbers are slowly trending down. The efforts of professionals who have completed RMCOEH programs help prevent the daily toll of such illnesses and injuries in Utah's workers.

The Rocky Mountain Center trains graduate students (masters and PhD) in industrial hygiene, hazardous substances, occupational injury prevention, occupational medicine, and ergonomics and safety. There have been 681 graduates since the inception of the center, and surveys of our graduates demonstrate that all our former graduates rate our programs as "excellent" or "very good" in preparing them for their careers. We also conduct over 180 Continuing Education Courses and other outreach activities annually with over 5,000 participants to update and improve the existing OSH programs managed by these professionals in Utah's businesses.

The RMCOEH additionally contributes to Utah's knowledge-based economy through major research projects that develop new and innovative methods to reduce the burden of occupational injuries. Current involvement in such research projects is approximately \$2 million a year. These projects include major investigations of truck drivers health and risk of crashes, common musculoskeletal disorders (carpal tunnel syndrome, low back pain, shoulder tendinitis, etc.), and particulate air exposures. Additionally, we have major expertise in chemical/biological/nuclear terrorism preparedness, and our faculty has worked with the Department of Health to lead the development of the state's Medical Surge Capacity Plan, and another plan for a Regional Homeland Defense Medical Center for such untoward events.

The RMCOEH is involved in extensive outreach efforts to businesses that include assistance to over 2,000 Utah businesses and government agencies annually. This assistance includes consultations to provide education to healthcare.

We would welcome an invitation to appear before a legislative committee to present this report or answer any questions legislators may have about RMCOEH or occupational health and safety issues in Utah. If you have any additional questions, please contact me or the financial administrator for the RMCOEH, Ms. Sheri Carp at 801.581.3532.

Sincerely,

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cc:
Governor Herbert
Jaceson Maughan, Utah Labor Commissioner
Utah Workers' Compensation Advisory Council