

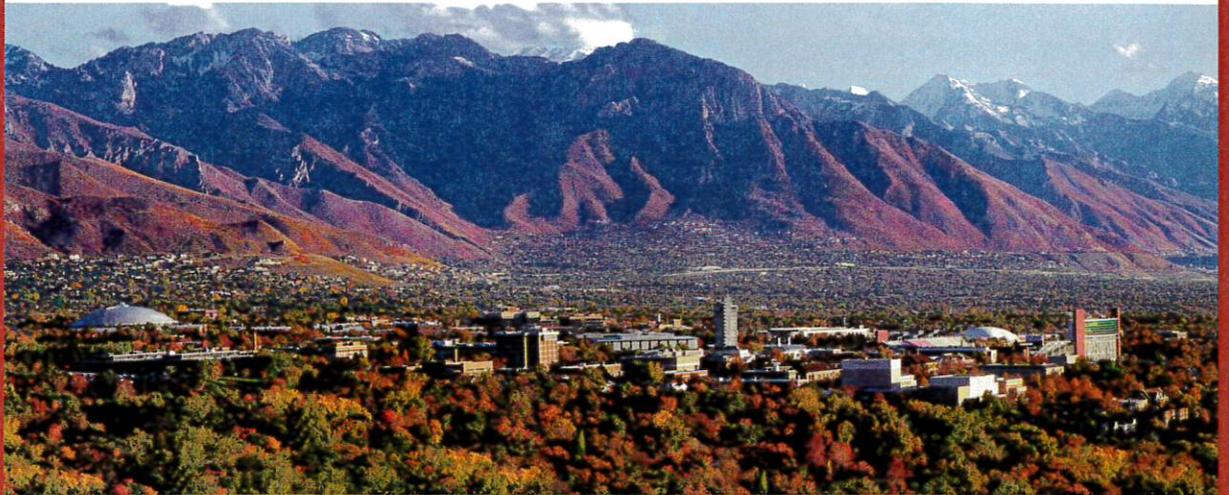
The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

Department of Family and Preventive Medicine University of Utah School of Medicine 2020

“Protecting the worker and the environment through interdisciplinary education, research, and service.”

- Established in 1977 to meet the need for a comprehensive occupational and environmental health and safety program in the Intermountain West.
- Became a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Education and Research Center (ERC) in 1978. One of only 18 ERCs in the nation.
- In 2018, approved by NIOSH for an additional five years with increased funding now to \$1.7 million per year (Best score in US!)
- Provides academic (master and Ph.D.) and Continuing Education courses, conducts research, and provides service in Occupational Medicine, Industrial Hygiene, Ergonomics and Safety, Injury Prevention, and Hazardous Materials.
- Implemented unique Master of Science in Occupational Health Program. First graduates 2009. Developed PhD in Occupational and Environmental Health 2012.
- Invented Occupational Safety and Health Solutions course to take teams of students to solve real-world OSH problems for businesses, improving competitiveness of businesses.
- Over 695 (PhD's) graduates of academic programs since 1977.
- High ratings from graduates (99.2 % are satisfied or very satisfied with our programs).
- 7,983 Continuing Education and Outreach students.
- Serving over 3,755 businesses.
- Research showing common musculoskeletal disorders (e.g., shoulder tendinitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow) are markedly increased from cardiovascular disease risks.
- Research to prevent trucking deaths (4,500/yr.) and nursing injuries transferring patients.
- Faculty lead development of national guidelines for treatment of occupational injuries.
- Published national treatment guidelines (>18,000 references)
- New opioids treatment guideline – preceded CDC by over 2 years! Updated 2017.
 - Implemented in a worker's compensation insurer, resulting in 40% decreased opioid pills prescribed, with state's fatalities reduced 15%!
- New Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Depression Guidelines.
- Implemented new undergraduate minor in Occupational Safety and Health.
 - NIOSH estimates 25,000 shortfall in safety professionals.
- Graduates address the fact that occupationally-related illnesses and injuries cost more than \$240 billion annually, equal to the cost of heart disease and cancer.
- Each day, 9,000 of the nation's workers sustain disabling injuries on the job; 137 people die from work-related illnesses; economic burden equivalent to cancer and heart disease.

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