

RMCOEH – An Asset for Industry



Tucked in the University of Utah's Research Park is a little known but nationally ranked resource for manufacturing and other industries in our state. It's called the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH).

RMCOEH is one of 18 Education and Research Centers (ERCs) across the country that are partially funded by the federal National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. In 2018, federal evaluators approved RMCOEH for another five years of funding, giving the Utah center the highest score in the country. The UofU topped the ratings of ERCs based at Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Michigan among others evaluated in the same funding cycle.

EDCUtah recently met with RMCOEH director Kurt T. Hegmann, MD, MPH to get his perspective on the center and the resources it offers to businesses and other organizations in the region.

What are the main programs of RMCOEH?

KH: First of all, we have an academic role, in that we offer undergraduate, masters, and PhD programs. We educate students who go into careers in occupational safety and health. We also offer continuing education classes to help companies inform their workers about the latest best practices. Through these courses, we have reached more than 5,000 workers and nearly 4,000 businesses in the past year.

We also conduct research and provide service in occupational medicine, industrial hygiene, ergonomics and safety, injury prevention, and hazardous