

The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

University of Utah and Weber State University: 2022

“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 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 U.S.
- In 2018, approved by NIOSH for an additional five years with increased funding now to \$1.8 million per year (Best score in US!)
- In 2021, statutorily changed into a multi-university program, jointly run by U.Utah and Weber State University
- Provides Masters and Ph.D.s in Ergonomics, Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Injury Prevention, Occupational Medicine; Continuing Education courses, research, and provides service.
- Implemented unique Master of Science in Occupational Health Program. First graduates 2009. Developed PhD in Occupational and Environmental Health 2012.
- Implemented new undergraduate minor in Occupational Safety and Health.
- Developing BS-OSH at Weber State U. Developing Occup. Health Nursing at WSU.
 - NIOSH estimates 25,000 shortfall in safety professionals.
- 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 735 graduates of academic programs since 1977.
- High ratings from graduates (99.2 % are satisfied or very satisfied with our programs).
- >150,000 Continuing Education and Outreach students.
- Serving over 3,000 businesses.
- 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 (>19,000 references). 2022: Disability Prevention, 2021: Anxiety.
- Developed the only occupational health guideline for COVID
- Research showing COVID likely spread by microdroplets and aerosols
 - Also explains ongoing spread despite masks and lockdowns, which are at best, only partially effective
- Vaccine efficacy studies for CDC with healthcare, first responder, and frontline workers.
- 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.