Three Winning Poster Sessions Chosen at Safety 2012

Poster sessions at ASSE’s Safety 2012 in Denver, CO, covered a wide range of topics, including nano-enhanced environmental remediation, food safety and noise exposures at an NCAA basketball arena.

A panel of ASSE and Academics Practice Specialty members selected a winner from each of the three poster categories: students, graduates and other (including faculty and government).

The three winners were:

Students
Andrew Griepentrog, Student; Todd W. Loushine, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CIH, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Graduate Students
Effect of Drug Testing on Injury Rate and Severity in Small- and Medium-Sized Construction Companies
Katherine Schofield, MEHS, CSP, ARM, CHST; Bruce Alexander, Ph.D.; Susan Gerberich, Ph.D., Andrew Ryan, M.S., University of Minnesota

Other
Curriculum Mapping: An Evaluation of an Undergraduate Safety Major Using ANSI/ASSE Competencies as a Framework for Assessment
Kevin Slates, M.P.A., Ed.D., CSP, Clinical Assistant Professor; David Lohrmann, Department Chair, Indiana University-Bloomington Department of Applied Health Science

For their winning poster, Kevin Slates and David Lohrmann involved all instructors in their undergraduate safety degree program, plus their academic advisor, in a 12-month curriculum review exercise that focused on student exit outcomes. “Exit outcomes were defined as what we want our safety students to know (factual knowledge) and be able to do (procedural knowledge) once they have completed the entire course of study,” Slates and Lohrmann explain.

The faculty then agreed on ten exit outcomes that incorporated ABET standards and analyzed all existing courses to determine if, where and how these outcomes are currently addressed; identified outcomes that were not addressed at all or were not adequately addressed; and agreed to curriculum changes (e.g., develop new courses, consolidate existing courses, revise existing courses) to ensure that all exit outcomes are addressed at an appropriate level. This exercise resulted in three benefits. According to Slates and Lohrmann, “First, we are assured that our academic program is of the highest quality. Second, by including them on every course syllabus, students will be made aware of the exit outcomes addressed in every safety course they complete. Third, through facilitated exchanges, a faculty with diverse positions and opinions was able to collegially arrive at a strong consensus on the nature and direction of our program.”

Slates and Lohrmann assert that completion of an exercise such this by a faculty helps ensure that the preparation of future safety professionals is based on an agreed-upon and valid set of quality standards/competencies. “When graduates of programs with sound exit competencies join the workforce, their employers can be confident of their ability to perform well as safety professionals. In other words, high-quality, competency-based undergraduate preparation serves to further validate and strengthen the safety profession,” they maintain.

During the poster session, Slates most enjoyed “having the opportunity to talk to faculty and student poster presenters about their research or teaching interests” and his and Lohrmann’s win is “an acknowledgement that my pedagogical process content related to teaching and learning was valued as much as traditional data-driven posters by the judges and conference participants.”
Adds Lohrmann, “Having our poster chosen as the best among many outstanding posters at a major professional conference is a signal honor. I especially appreciated being able to assist a faculty member in my department prepare this award-winning poster, as this is an important milestone in his career.”

Slates and Lohrmann intend to monitor implementation of agreed-upon curricular changes to ensure that they are all executed at a high level of quality and to accomplish additional corrections if unforeseen problems arise.

Andrew Griepentrog’s winning poster determined if a difference in opinion exists between safety professionals on current and future safety field issues, the current establishment/organization and direction of the safety field and the need for degrees/certifications to practice safety. “Little research has been conducted on how career experience, education, certification, as well as other aspects of safety contribute to perception of the occupational safety and health field,” says Griepentrog.

He also appreciated the opportunity “to present the findings of our study to safety professionals as well as hear their opinions.” Griepentrog continues, “Our win is validation that this area is important to safety professionals, and I look forward to possibly working with Todd Loushine, Ph.D., P.E., CSP, CIH, again in the future to continue this research.”

Links:
- [2011 Poster Sessions Recap](#)
- [2010 Poster Sessions Recap](#)