Top Stories

Where Are They Now? ASSE Foundation Takes a Look

The ASSE Foundation recently surveyed former scholar recipients to find out how the scholarships impacted their careers. The survey also asked about how much they have learned while working and the survey showed that 154 people who received scholarships between 2000 and 2008. Whether they have entered the workforce or are still pursuing SH&E degrees, most respondents reported the scholarship helped them earn respect, gain experience, increase their knowledge and get a job in the SH&E field.

Many noted the scholarship helped cover school aspects such as books and equipment, tuition, living expenses, and internships. Most also believe that the award helped them concentrate on their studies to maintain good grades. Dan Snyder, a past Bechtel Group Foundation Scholarship winner, earned his B.S. in Safety Science at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As a student, he was “surprised how many resources I have been able to learn, because it helped him pay for his school and living expenses.

Recipients who are now in the workforce reported on challenges they are experiencing in the field. Many mentioned the difficulties of convincing management or more experienced employees to hire people from past safety programs. Training, management and getting coworkers to acknowledge a graduate in the field is a clear challenge. Matt Goyan, a past UPS Scholarship recipient, is in the project development group at ConAuthor. “I often face challenges that involve being a young safety professional...I face challenges from other more experienced personnel who want to challenge my knowledge and my direction due to the fact I am a graduate student...Thankfully, due to my knowledge of the safety profession and my desire to learn, I have been able to reduce this over time.”

Southeastern Oklahoma Student Section Draws Record Attendance

ASSE’s Southeastern Oklahoma Student Section recently held its largest-ever meeting— with 57 students and three faculty members in attendance. Associate professor Terry Heath is a faculty advisor for the section, which is sponsored by the ASSE Southeast Oklahoma Chapter.

According to Wayne Jones, chair of the Department of Occupational Safety and Health, the large attendance reflects the growth of the university’s occupational safety program. “We have our largest fall enrollment—with more than 450 students enrolled, including more than 200 graduate students—due to the increased focus on occupational safety careers,” Jones said. “That’s up 5% over last fall and it marks 12 consecutive semesters of increased enrollment in the program.”

More News

Practice Specialty Technical Publications Go Digital

In the spirit of joining green, ASSE will switch to a digital format for all its practice specialty technical publications. As of January 1, 2009, through the Technical Publications Department, all technical publications will be available for online or on a hard copy basis from the ASSE website.

Visit ASSE’s homepage to update your information, if necessary, to ensure that ASSE has your valid e-mail address. You may also contact ASSE’s Customer Service Department at (877) 699-2929.

Weigh In on ASSE’s Public Affairs Activities

To better represent ASSE members and to share that ASSE’s public affairs initiatives, ASSE has added a feature to its website that allows interested partners to comment on key ASSE statements on legislation and regulatory initiatives. To date, this feedback mechanism has been available for ASSE’s statement on combustible dust and its comment on OSHA’s proposed rule clarifying that noncompliance with its PPE and training requirements in health and safety standards may expose an employer to serious occupational illnesses. ASSE’s comment on the Department of Labor’s rulemaking on health standards is also available.

Future Safety Leaders to Meet in November

ASSE student members are encouraged to attend ASSE’s upcoming Future Safety Leaders Conference. The event, which will be held Sept. 7-9, 2008, in Louisville, KY, is sponsored by the ASSE Foundation, Liberty Mutual and the Washington Division of URI. Sessions will cover the development of personal leadership skills, safety certifications and scholarships, business skills and career planning. There will be many networking events as well, housing and meals costs for the event are covered by ASSE.

Chapter/Member News

SPALW Chair Goes On the Air

Zafren Banjo, chair of the SPALW’s Safety Professionals and the Latinx Workforce (SPALW) common interest group, discussed safety business resumption tips in an interview conducted on 105.7 FM, Uniomich’s Chicago Spanish-speaking radio station. During the interview, Banjo, a professional member of the Arizona Chapter, focused on letting the Latinx community know about the Springfield

Chapter/Member News

Top Recruiters: Honor Roll

You Might Want to Know...

• ASSE chapters receive one free classified ad in Professional Safety per 12-month period. Check your chapter’s Members Only site, under Office Central, Safety Services for Chapter sections, to learn more.

• ASSE Foundation’s 2009 scholarships and grants are now available.

• Save the date for Seminar 2009, Feb. 9-11, 2009, in Las Vegas, NV.

• Recent downspouts in Des Moines, IA, the area near ASSE chapters partially filled without power to the weekend of Sept. 12. Take a look.