Survey on Lab Safety Culture Education on Campus

The APLU report on safety culture released in April 2016 emphasized the role of safety education in supporting this culture in the laboratory setting. This education particularly addresses cultural issues and soft skills as part of the undergraduate and graduate laboratory education.
Survey posted to CSHEMA and DCHAS listservs

- Results collected for 1 week
- 83 responses were received
- A couple of respondents noted some ambiguities or confusion about what we were asking
Demographics

- Received data from 34 states and 5 international institutions

- Type of research
  - Doctoral University (large research effort)
  - Master Level College or University (moderate research level)
  - Primarily Undergraduate Institution (low research)
Who drives safety culture?
Science and/or research clubs and science outreach

- 83% of respondents had undergraduate student science and/or research clubs
  - 7% Didn’t know
- 52% had graduate student clubs
  - 12% Didn’t know
- 58% had other non-departmental science outreach groups
  - 23% Didn’t know

If we don’t know then how can we have an impact?
Measures of Training Success

- # of accidents/incidents/spills
- Compliance
- Feedback
- Surveys

*All lagging indicators – are there any leading indicators?*
Marketing Methods

- Departmental meetings
- Email
- Face-to-face
- Newsletter
- On-line training
- PPE giveaways
- Posters
- Safety committees
- Social media
- Training
- Website
Innovative Outreach

- PAWS for Safety - reward cards with PAW points, which is currency the University community can use to purchase food or other goods.
- Put safety training video on YouTube to make it more accessible and relevant.
- Tying Inspection results to Olympic Medal results.
- Using a web-based survey tool to deliver, document, and track training programs.
- Undergraduate outreach including, guest safety lectures in freshman undergraduate chemistry classes, safety lectures at structured undergraduate research program classes, and a specific training course for undergraduates in research labs.
- Using "Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students" throughout our chemistry curriculum.
- Posters with school mascot demonstrating PPE
Change in Training Programs

- Decline
- Improvement
- No change