Environmental Health and Safety
Mission, Vision, and Priorities

November 26, 2018

Introduction

Environmental Health and Safety is part of the Business and Financial Affairs Division (BFA). We are guided by our Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Goals that support the BFA's and Western's mission and goals.

In our **vision**, all members of the Western community utilize innovation to create the safest learning and working environment possible.

Our **mission** is to embed the capacity for the Western community to internalize safety, inspiring early awareness of risks and personal responsibility for action.

We Value …

- The health and safety of our community

- Collaboration

- Open communication

- Professionalism

- Efficiency

- Accountability

EHS **strategic priorities** include:

1) Educating the campus community on identifying hazards and making safe decisions.

2) Empowering the campus community in efforts to protect the health and safety of themselves, students, employees, volunteers and visitors.

3) Building an environment where every person feels accountable for safety and pursues it on a daily basis.

EHS SCOT Assessment at a Glance

EHS Strengths

- Guided by our mission and vision
- Support the institutional strategic goals
- Dedicated and caring staff
- Cross training
- Strong internal communication and support
- Customer response and prioritization
- Programmatic expertise
  - Fire safety
  - Chemical safety
  - Biological safety
  - Laboratory Safety
  - Ergonomics
  - Public works and renovation safety
- Safe Campus
  - AEDs, First Aid and CPR training available
  - FM Safety training and awareness
  - Strong engagement in safety committees
- Positive working relationships with external departments
- Confined Space Rescue Team

EHS Opportunities

- Enhance partnerships with external agencies and within the campus community
- Growing demand for safety training
- Enhance life safety systems
- FM Safety Committee
- Public works and renovation safety
- Transportation safety
- Proactive safety culture messaging
- Proactively manage campus hazard perceptions

EHS Challenges

- Marketing safety culture
  - EHS importance to WWU mission
  - Communication
  - Benchmarking
  - On-boarding

- Efficiently use existing and leveraging new technology
  - Outdated data systems
  - Lack of skills in data systems and analytics
  - Utilization of new and available technologies

- Laser safety
- Radiation Safety
- Occupational Health
- Equipment maintenance plan

EHS Threats

- Recruitment is threatened by compensation challenges and availability of candidates
- Competition for resources
- Future demographic changes impact operations
- Unfunded mandates
- Aging workforce and transition planning
- University growth and proposed capital projects threatens to outpace EHS capacity
- Maintain employee health and safety due to end-of-life equipment and aging infrastructure
- Proposed department move away from central location impacts operations
- Varying levels of safety culture across campus and variability in communicating strategies