

Meet CSHEMA Volunteer Brock A. Young



Title:

EH&S Training Manager

Institution:

University of Nevada, Reno

Current leadership role in CSHEMA:

Marketing/Communications & Education COP Co-Leader

How long have you worked in EHS?

I was first hired as a student worker 17 years ago.

How did you get into EHS?

While pursuing my undergraduate degree in biochemistry here at the University of Nevada, Reno, I took a position as a student worker hazardous materials technician which led to a graduate assistantship and later a position with our chemical inv. team.

How long have you worked at your current institution?

All of my professional EH&S experience

Best career advice?

Make yourself available. I try to join every meeting I am invited to and take every opportunity I am afforded to talk about the services EH&S can provide. If people generally know who you are and what you do, you can crowd source that aspect of safety. I am constantly fielding questions and helping solve problems.

What is the biggest problem you face at your institution?

Communication. Figuring who is doing what is the root of the challenge. It makes it difficult to know what information and services we need to provide and to whom we need to provide them.

Proudest professional accomplishment so far?

Establishing our dedicated EH&S training lab and the corresponding lab safety hands-on training course we offer there has revolutionized how lab personnel are trained at our institution. More recently, I authored mandatory COVID-19 awareness training for all employees and students.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I want to continue to work to expand and refine the safety and training programs at the University of Nevada, Reno. This is a never-ending challenge at institutions of higher education.

What do you think the future of the EHS profession will look like?

Safety-specific software to facilitate assessments and send out auto reminders for deficiencies and training reminders is becoming more and more critical as populations, diversity of research, and safety expectations grow. The biggest challenges in EH&S in academia have been in new and emerging tech.

How has being a member of CSHEMA benefited you/your institution?

It has been a great source of inspiration. It is comforting to know that we are all facing similar challenges and members are largely more than willing to share their successes (and failures) to give others a leg up on addressing problems.

Hobbies?

Cooking, softball, disc golf, camping... I have a wonderful wife who is a Veterinary Technician and a two-year-old daughter. We have two dogs and seven chickens. We try to spend as much time outside as possible.

Areas of expertise?

My educational background is in biochemistry/biotechnology with a bit of organic chemistry. I have held positions with our regulated waste and chemical inventory groups prior to my current position. I am an OSHA General Industry authorized outreach trainer and an American Heart Association Basic Life Support instructor.

