Meet CSHEMA Volunteer Jesse Decker

**Title:**
Director for Safety - College of Engineering

**Institution:**
14+ years

**Current leadership role in CSHEMA:**
Co-leader Embedded Safety Professionals (w/Mary Lindstrom of MIT)

**How long have you worked in EHS?**
14+ years

**How did you get into EHS?**
Started in biotech as a molecular bio researcher and Rad Safety Officer out of college. I was brought on to help a university with chem/bio/rad safety after being a stay-at-home dad for 10 years. I found the Safety/RM field fascinating, challenging and rewarding.

**How long have you worked at your current institution?**
3+ years

**Best career advice?**
Say yes to opportunities until you have to say no.

**What is the biggest problem you face at your institution?**
Funding and time. Almost every safety issue can be solved if there is available funding and time to put towards it.

**Proudest professional accomplishment so far?**
Received the Academic Staff Excellence award from the College. In a College full of talented and devoted individuals, the fact that they felt the safety director deserved this award meant a lot to me.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**
Continuing to be a leader in the push to improve academic safety culture and safety communication. Continuing to grow my knowledge base and becoming more effective in my role.

**What do you think the future of the EHS profession will look like?**
I want high quality VR trainings for academia! We have the ability to do this now, we need to fund and partner with people who can make this happen.

**How has being a member of CSHEMA benefited you/your institution?**
As the sole safety person at an institution, it provided a lifeline to knowledgeable people ready to share experience and insight. CSHEMA still serves that purpose, but is also a sounding board for ideas and to hear about how others are able to solve similar issues. It allows me to share some and save time/effort for others.

**Hobbies?**
Reading & Birding - and if I can combine birding with some kayaking or scenic hiking, I’m a happy guy.

**Areas of expertise?**
Hard-core generalist. I've covered chem/rad/bio, haz waste, emergency mgmt., env. & occ. safety/health, field research, youth activities, insurance, ergonomics and animals and am generally knowledgeable about all of them.