Purpose of the Survey

• Follow-up to APLU *Guide to Implementing a Safety Culture*
• Evaluate the current status of our safety programs
• Gauge progress on implementing a safety culture on our campuses
• Share ideas for improving safety culture
Survey Format

- Survey sent to VPRs of APLU member institutions
  - 153 institutions contacted
  - 29% response (45 responses)
  - One survey response per institution
- 20 total questions
  - 4 questions related to institutional characterization
  - 2 questions related to status of safety program since 2016
  - 12 questions on current status of safety program
  - 2 requests for examples of safety program improvements – recent and planned
Institutional Characterization
Who does the primary responsibility of laboratory safety fall under?

- VPR Finance and Administration: 42%
- VPR Research Administration: 24%
- Provost's Office: 2%
- President's Office: 0%
- Other: 24%
- Missing: 7%
In which of the following categories is your institution categorized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education?

- **R1:** Doctoral University – highest research activity: 58%
- **R2:** Doctoral University – higher research activity: 29%
- **R3:** Doctoral University – moderate research activity: 0%
- Don’t Know: 4%
- Missing: 9%
Please indicate your EH&S office’s overall familiarity with the APLU recommendations

- Not at all familiar: 4%
- Somewhat familiar: 2%
- Moderately familiar: 20%
- Very familiar: 51%
- Don't Know: 13%
- Missing: 9%
Please indicate your institutional administrators’ overall familiarity with the APLU recommendations

- Not at all familiar: 9%
- Somewhat familiar: 24%
- Moderately familiar: 16%
- Very familiar: 27%
- N/A: 2%
- Don’t Know: 16%
- Missing: 7%
Status Since 2016
The institution has a written policy that establishes its commitment to safety and defines safety roles and responsibilities.

- No change. This policy existed prior to 2016, and has not been revised recently. (55%)
- We have made significant changes to a written safety policy that existed prior to 2016. (23%)
- A written safety policy has been developed since 2016. (7%)
- We have made significant progress toward developing a written safety policy since 2016. (5%)
- N/A
- Don't know
- Missing

University of Nevada, Reno
Research & Innovation
There has been no change to the budget since 2016.  
There has been a significant increase to budget for safety since 2016.  
There has been a significant decrease to budget for safety since 2016.  
Don't Know  
Missing
Current Status
A sufficient budget is designated on an ongoing basis to support a proactive safety program.
Safety education and training are provided to faculty and staff who are involved in science and engineering teaching and research.
Education on safety principles and safe work practices is integrated into science and engineering teaching and research activities.
Safety committees comprised of faculty, staff, safety professionals, and students are established and functional

- Strongly disagree: 0%
- Disagree: 14%
- Neither disagree nor agree: 5%
- Agree: 30%
- Strongly agree: 45%
- Missing: 7%
A collaborative relationship exists between the EH&S office and faculty and staff

- Strongly disagree: 0%
- Disagree: 2%
- Neither disagree nor agree: 9%
- Agree: 52%
- Strongly agree: 30%
- Missing: 7%
Risk assessment is an integral component of teaching and research activities
Proactive safety assessments of laboratory and field research activities are routinely conducted

- Strongly disagree: 0%
- Disagree: 9%
- Neither disagree nor agree: 14%
- Agree: 41%
- Strongly agree: 30%
- Missing: 7%
Incidents and near-misses are reported and lessons learned are communicated

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<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
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<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>7%</td>
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There is ongoing review of safety programs to identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
A process to recognize and reward good safety performance has been implemented.
Safety objectives and performance are tracked and communicated across the institution

- 20% Disagree
- 23% Neither disagree nor agree
- 36% Agree
- 14% Strongly agree
- 7% Missing
Overall, our institution has recently made significant progress on implementing a safety culture.
Open Ended Responses
Please share with us specific examples of how your institution has recently made improvements to its safety culture (Optional)

- **Safety Committees**
  - Established new committees or refocused existing committee to improve laboratory safety culture
    - One committee co-chaired by VPR and VPAF

- **Improved Safety Communication**
  - Developed safety scorecard to communicate to deans on a quarterly basis
  - Direct communication from senior leadership regarding expectations for conducting safe research
  - Development of institution-specific implementation plan (for APLU recommendations)
  - Included “lessons learned” at annual research symposium

- **Recognition of Safety Performance**
  - Established award program to recognize individuals and lab groups
Please share with us specific examples of how your institution has recently made improvements to its safety culture (Optional)

- Partnership between EH&S office and academics
  - Established jointly funded safety budget for addressing safety issues
  - Changing EH&S office from regulatory focus to support and service

- Organizational Changes
  - Organizational structure modified to support APLU recommendations
  - Established/hired new safety positions

- Safety Initiatives
  - Developed online incident/near-miss reporting system
  - Established university chemical distribution center
Please share with us specific examples of how your institution plans to make improvements to its safety culture in the future (Optional)

- **Improved Safety Communication**
  - Implementation of safety culture initiative jointly developed by VPR and VPAF, and endorsed by president
  - Improved collaboration between VPR and VPAF

- **Safety Committees**
  - Implementation of faculty committee recommendations to improve safety culture, with regular reports to senior leadership
  - Expansion of safety committees to include graduate student safety committee and engage more employees in university safety culture

- **Safety Training**
  - Expand training to reach new faculty sooner after they arrive on campus
  - Increase safety training as part of student instruction
Please share with us specific examples of how your institution plans to make improvements to its safety culture in the future (Optional)

• **Safety Initiatives**
  - Implementation of incident/near-miss reporting, and lessons learned
  - Acquisition and implementation of electronic lab safety management system
  - Expand laboratory assessment program and include faculty/researchers in the assessment process
  - Establish program to provide PPE to labs
  - Conduct laboratory-based incident response exercise with local emergency responders

• **Improved Safety Policies**
  - Implement a roles and responsibilities policy
  - Developing field safety guidelines
Summary

• We feel positive about our safety programs and are improving the safety culture on our campuses
• In general:
  • Written safety policies are established
  • Safety training is provided to faculty and staff; safety education is generally integrated into teaching and research
  • Safety committees are established and functional
  • EH&S offices work collaboratively with faculty and staff
  • Proactive safety assessments are routinely conducted
  • Accidents and near-misses are reported and lessons learned are communicated, but some feel that they need to improve in this area
  • Safety programs are evaluated for opportunities to improve
Summary

• Areas for improvement
  • Safety budgets are generally adequate, but mostly haven’t increased since 2016
  • Risk assessment is integrated into teaching and research, but many campuses feel that they need to do more
  • Recognition and reward for good safety performance needs to be improved

• Recent improvements
  • New or refocused safety committees to improve safety culture
  • Improved communication of safety programs and expectations
  • Programs to recognize and reward good safety performance
  • Partnerships between EH&S office and academics

• Planned improvements
  • Initiatives to improve communication of safety programs and expectations
  • New or refocused safety committees to improve safety culture
  • New safety initiatives
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