

2023-2024 NC STATE and EASTMAN CHEMICAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

The 2023-2024 Campus Safety Award Recipients, listed alphabetically by last name, were nominated by supervisors or co-workers, as “ ... deserving individuals or teams who have contributed to fostering a safe and healthy working environment on campus. The criteria for receiving an award include sustained safety performance, improved safety performance, and novel contributions to a department or university safety effort.

Steph Jeffries

Associate Teaching Professor, Forestry and Environmental Resource, College of Natural Resources

“During the pandemic, Dr. Jeffries liaised with EMMC to develop protocols for field vehicle use and to develop a template safety plan for field labs that were adopted across courses in Forestry and Environmental Resources and the College of Natural Resources. Her field safety guidance plan is widely used by course instructors in the College of Natural Resources during the academic year and in summer camps. Her guidance plan is an important element of training for undergraduate and graduate students on field safety.”

Matt Koci

Professor, Prestage Poultry Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee

“Matt has served as the chair of our Institutional Biosafety Committee since August 2017 (over 7 years). During this time, he has faced numerous challenges and demonstrated outstanding dedication, expertise and innovation in ensuring the highest standards of safety across all biosafety-related activities on our campus. Matt keeps up with relevant biosafety regulations which are constantly changing and evolving, reviews submissions from a diverse range of research activities conducted at NC State, and always makes himself available to collaborate on biosafety risk assessment and management strategies.”

Nathalie Lavoine

Assistant Professor, Forest Biomaterials, College of Natural Resources

Beverly Miller

Research Specialist, Forest Biomaterials, College of Natural Resources

"Nathalie and Beverly have led a team of undergraduate students who have improved the safety compliance in Forest Biomaterials, particularly for unwanted material management. This is an all-female team that has conducted routine lab safety audits of the entire Forest Biomaterials department including the Paper Pilot Plant and Hodges Wood Machining. They ensure compliance for eyewash inspections, gas cylinder inventory and management for the entire department, updated door signage, chemical inventories, proper chemical labeling and unwanted material processing. They likewise have improved safety in a multi-PI instrument facility. Both the team and its leadership deserve kudos and recognition for their efforts which are clearly evident in practice and serve as a model to other PIs in the department and college.

Dzung Nguyen

Manager - Electrical and Computer Engineering MakerSpace, College of Engineering

"Dzung's dedication to creating a safe learning environment has allowed us to foster innovation and practical skill sets while ensuring the well-being of all facility users, including students and faculty. Under Dzung's leadership, the MakeSpace has become a haven of innovation and creativity on our campus. Recognizing the potential risks associated with a makerspace, he has implemented a comprehensive online safety training program, covering essential safety protocols and emergency procedures, dress codes and expected behavior, ensuring every individual is well-prepared to work in the MakerSpace environment. Dzung has introduced additional training courses for the use of specialized equipment such as 3D printers, waterjet cutters, CNC, and soldering equipment. Dzung regularly conducts safety audits, updates equipment to meet the highest standards, and fosters an open dialogue about safety concerns among users."

Sydna Willis

Administrative Support Specialist, Forestry and Environmental Resources,
College of Natural Resources

"Sydna received five separate nominations for her safety leadership and efforts in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources. She is the lead contact for Jordan Hall and Jordan Hall Addition, so her engagement extends to the Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences as well as the Center for GeoSpatial Analytics. She has demonstrated a 'safety into your daily activities' with her active monitoring of hallway clearance, security of laboratories and offices, and compliance by all occupants during fire drills or alarms. She is a reliable source of information for facility operations that can impact workspace safety. Her external reach includes managing use of the department's fleet vehicles, ensuring all fleet users are properly trained and vetted to use these vehicles, and that the vehicles are in good working order."

Robert Price

Food Safety Manager, NC State Food Innovations Lab

"Robert has continually updated our facility's food safety plan, our EHS plans, and food defense plan. He has taken upon himself to develop a full on-boarding plan for new employees and interns to cover those programs. Robert reviewed the existing plan and modified it to streamline processes and build in better checks and balances. Robert has reached out to vendors to improve our environmental monitoring program using AI to predict areas where potential microbial hazards could present problems."