United States Public Health Service

MACHINATORES VITAE

Engineer Community Newsletter

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From the Chief Engineer Officer

Randall J.F. Gardner, P.E.
Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service
Assistant Surgeon General

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Commitment, Curiosity, Confidence

We have all made a commitment to meeting the mission of the Public Health Service to promote and protect the health and safety of the people of our Nation. Some of us by our commitment in uniform and others as a commitment to our jobs and profession. We sometimes waver in commitment as we experience new managers, supervisors, and leaders or as other non-work related commitments compete for our time and efforts. It's important for us to understand how the daily level of commitment we have impacts our missions. Commitment can also be applied to the three public health initiatives of the Surgeon General: addiction, emotional well-being, and nutrition which may affect the public's ability to commit and stay engaged with work and relationships. We must be aware of what we are asked to commit to and the impact we can have in our profession. As I reflect on my career, the level of commitment has made a difference on whatever I was doing even when it didn't produce the fully desired outcome I wanted. We should help each other to understand and develop levels of commitment that produces efforts and results of which we can be proud.

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NIOSH Celebrates National Engineers Week 2017

LCDR Deborah V.L. Hirst and Trudi McCleery

From left to right, Dylan Neu, Trudi McCleery, LCDR Deborah Hirst, and the Winton Woods High School's PLTW class.

In celebration of National Engineers Week 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) visited Winton Woods High School's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering class in Cincinnati, Ohio. PLTW is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs used in middle and high schools across the United States. Over 200 high schools in the United States have adopted this STEM program to introduce high school students to engineering in order to increase the number and quality of engineers and biomedical science students graduating from colleges and universities in the country. PLTW's high school curriculum for engineering and biomedical sciences is a comprehensive four-year program. Each high school's PLTW program is overseen by a professional advisory board. LCDR Hirst has served on the Winton Woods PLTW advisory board since 2010.

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LCDR Hirst, along with NIOSH civil service colleagues Dylan Neu and Trudi McCleery, emphasized the importance of using engineering controls to protect workers. LCDR Hirst focused on engineering controls in artificial flavorings and hazardous drug research. She also talked about construction and water research since the PLTW curriculum is currently focused on civil engineering. Mr. Neu talked about his work with the NIOSH test ambulance including improved ventilation and ultraviolet germicidal irradiation. The PLTW class was able to see the ambulance and the engineering controls Mr. Neu had mentioned during his presentation. Ms. McCleery gave an overview of NIOSH and projects within the Engineering and Physical Hazards Branch.

NIOSH employs nearly 250 engineers and engineering technicians who identify, evaluate, develop, and implement engineering control technology to prevent occupational disease and injury. Through laboratory and field study, NIOSH engineers solve problems with innovative ideas for many industrial sectors including manufacturing, construction, mining, and healthcare. Many of these solutions are adopted by industry, saving lives and improving the health of American workers.

To learn more about NIOSH and the NIOSH Engineering Control program, visit the Engineering Controls resource page at https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/engcontrols.

NIOSH group photo (Photo courtesy of NIOSH)

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