

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COUNCIL

CDC/NIOSH GRANT #1R13OH009835-01

Final Report Grant Period 02/02/10-01/31/11

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Conference Grant

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The Construction Safety Council has fulfilled the promises and goals as stated in CDC/NIOSH Grant #1R13OH009835-01 . These accomplishments include the successful delivery of 66 sessions on safety and health in the construction industry and a successful exhibition.

The Construction Safety Council hosted its 20th Annual Construction Safety Conference February 16 -18, 2010 in Rosemont, IL. Over 600 participants, speakers and exhibitors were in attendance over the three days...a great turnout given today's construction climate. The meeting provided an efficient venue for researchers to directly communicate their findings to construction audiences and for construction audiences to communicate needs to researchers and serve as sounding boards for prospective intervention activities suggested by research results.

The conference brought together a diverse audience, including construction owners/users, contractors, researchers, academia, government officials, safety and health professionals, unions, and workers to share information and ideas about effective safety and health interventions and how to move best practices from inception to practical implementation. Participants of the Construction Safety Conference have each year received

continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development hours (PDHs) from Northern Illinois University, professional maintenance points from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, and maintenance points from The Construction Institute/American Society of Civil Engineers.

The caliber and expertise of the presenters was outstanding this year. Dr. John Howard, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health delivered the keynote address on Tuesday, February 16.

Over 60 sessions were offered throughout the three days, including sessions on fall protection, power line safety and workers' compensation issues. Additionally, sessions on electrical safety, industrial hygiene issues and work zone safety were presented by over 140 presenters and moderators. Funds from this grant help offset some of the printing costs as well as the room and audio visual rental fees. Proceedings for individual sessions are available on our website at www.buildsafe.org.

With over 60 exhibits, the participants had an opportunity to see a wide variety of the latest innovations in construction safety technology. Also, in honor of its 20th year, the Construction Safety Council hosted a Safety Awards Banquet during lunch on Wednesday, February 17. Awards for outstanding efforts in safety and health and training were awarded along with student scholarships.

One reflection of the value of the meeting is that NIOSH and CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training have twice requested to co-sponsor the meeting to fulfill internal plans for holding a national level construction meeting. NIOSH also collaborated

with the Construction Safety Council in 2008 to arrange for a day-long special NORA session in conjunction with the conference to get construction stakeholder input on NORA Construction Sector Council draft strategic goals. The conference continues to play a central role in dissemination and research to practice efforts for NORA and the construction sector in the years ahead. In summary, the conference represents a valuable public health resource and important link between researchers and construction users. Its continued viability is a key link in delivering a public health impact next year and in the years ahead.

CSC is also proud to sponsor college students enrolled in safety and health programs. These students are from both the undergraduate and graduate levels studying construction and industrial safety as well as construction management. They assist staff every year with much of the assembly work, some of the “heavy lifting,” as well as assisting speakers in each of the sessions as room monitors. In return, they receive full conference registration credentials, some great networking opportunities, and accommodations. Many of these students are hired each year from contractors, insurance companies and federal agencies that are in attendance at this conference. 4 of these students received the aforementioned scholarships during the awards ceremony.

For every conference, CSC actively recruits sponsors to help fray the extensive costs of the conference. Sponsors of the conference included Diamond Sponsor: Zurich, Platinum Sponsor: AWPT/IPAF, Gold Sponsor: Scholastic Enterprises, Silver Sponsors: Athletico & SC&RA, Bronze Sponsors IMPACT and Underground Contractors Association, and Corporate Sponsors: Block Electric & J & E Duff.

CSC markets the conference nationally with the assistance from organizations in the construction industry, such as CPWR, NIOSH, local and national Building Trades, and local and national trade associations.

Just after each conference, requests for abstracts from presenters are sent to past presenters and other interested parties. CSC will continue to work with its industry friends to actively seek out fresh, new presentation ideas. Researchers will be encouraged to continue to use this conference as a forum for delivering findings on pertinent construction safety research projects.

Each participant is asked to fill out a detailed evaluation form that asks participants to evaluate each session they attend as well as the conference and expo in general. Formal review of these evaluations is conducted immediately after the conference. Each year, these suggestions are considered and may affect change in one or more facets of the conference. Many of the session topics for the following year are a direct result of the requests participants include in their evaluation form.

Section II

As no research was conducted, there is no scientific report.