Developing a Positive Safety Culture through Mentoring-Exercise #1

Objective: To instill a positive attitude, perspective, and beliefs on safety in developing scientists. Creating a foundation based on a positive safety culture will have long lasting effects on your mentee. By having a few 'tools' ready for you to use can help keep you, your mentee, and your fellow lab personnel safe.

Exercise: Brainstorm actions that you can take in your specific lab setting as a mentor to positively affect the safety perspectives and work practices of your mentee. These actions can be thought of as tools for use as you interact and train your mentee. Included with each category are a list of questions to ask yourself to help you frame your specific plan of action.

Effective Safety Communication: Maintaining a safe environment while mentoring a new/inexperienced person cannot occur without effective communication between the mentor and mentee. A lab with a good safety culture is one where safety is openly discussed and concerns about safety are encouraged to be brought up.

Ask yourself:

- What can you do to help encourage your mentee to talk to you about safety?
- What can you do so the student views you as a safety resource?
- How do you resolve an issue in the lab, such as the student keeping a messy bench?
- How do you react when the student comes to ask questions?
- How do you react if the student brings up a safety concern?
- How can you serve as an example in communicating about safety?

I can establish effective communication on safety by:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Developing a Positive Safety Culture through Mentoring-Exercise #2

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Exercise: Brainstorm actions that you can take in your specific lab setting as a mentor to positively affect the safety perspectives and work practices of your mentee. These actions can be thought of as tools for use as you interact and train your mentee. Included with each category are a list of questions to ask yourself to help you frame your specific plan of action.

Developing Safe Lab Habits: Good lab practices and viewing safety as an integral part of experiment design is essential for a young scientist to learn to keep themselves and others safe. Cultivating this approach early on in someone's career greatly increases the likelihood that they will work safely in the lab.

Ask yourself:

- How does the way you work affect your student?
- How and where can you use positive reinforcement to encourage safe behavior?
- When you are designing or discussing an experiment, what can you do to get the student to consider the safety aspects?
- What training methods can you employ that ensures the student will follow procedures and work safely?
- How do you know the student understands an experimental process?

I can help my mentee develop safe lab habits by:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Developing a Positive Safety Culture through Mentoring-Exercise #3

Objective: To instill a positive attitude, perspective, and beliefs on safety in developing scientists. Creating a foundation based on a positive safety culture will have long lasting effects on your mentee. By having a few 'tools' ready for you to use can help keep you, your mentee, and your fellow lab personnel safe.

Exercise: Brainstorm actions that you can take in your specific lab setting as a mentor to positively affect the safety perspectives and work practices of your mentee. These actions can be thought of as tools for use as you interact and train your mentee. Included with each category are a list of questions to ask yourself to help you frame your specific plan of action.

Fostering a Positive Attitude on Safety: A positive attitude on safety is essential to a safety culture. Having a safety orientated attitude helps ensure that people will follow procedures, will assess and mitigate hazards, and will accept responsibility for safety. If people value safety, they are likely to promote it, making the lab environment safer for everyone.

Ask yourself:

- Is safety viewed as a set of rules to follow, or is it an integral part of the experimental process?
- What can you do to teach a student about the need for a positive and proactive attitude toward safety?
- Can you do to emphasize the ethical obligation to work safely?
- Are you emphasizing safety throughout your interactions with the student?
- Does the student realize the importance of safety beyond the academic lab, that it is a career requirement?

I can foster a positive attitude on safety by:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)