

TRAINING NEEDS FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

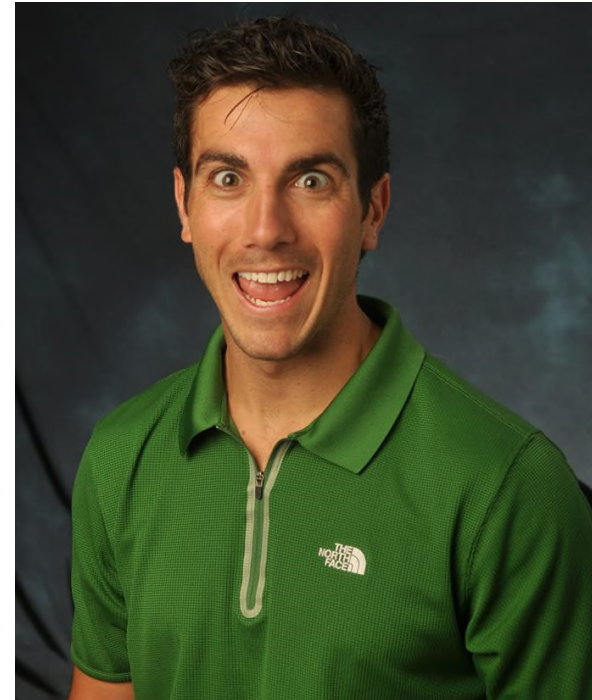
MOUNTAIN
& PLAINS ERC

*A NIOSH Education and Research Center for
Occupational & Environmental Health & Safety*

Center for Health, Work & Environment
colorado school of public health

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public health

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO



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4 minutes & 30 second

WHAT is Continuing Education (CE)?

WHO takes it?

WHY do they take it?

WHAT do they want and need?

WHAT are we doing about it?

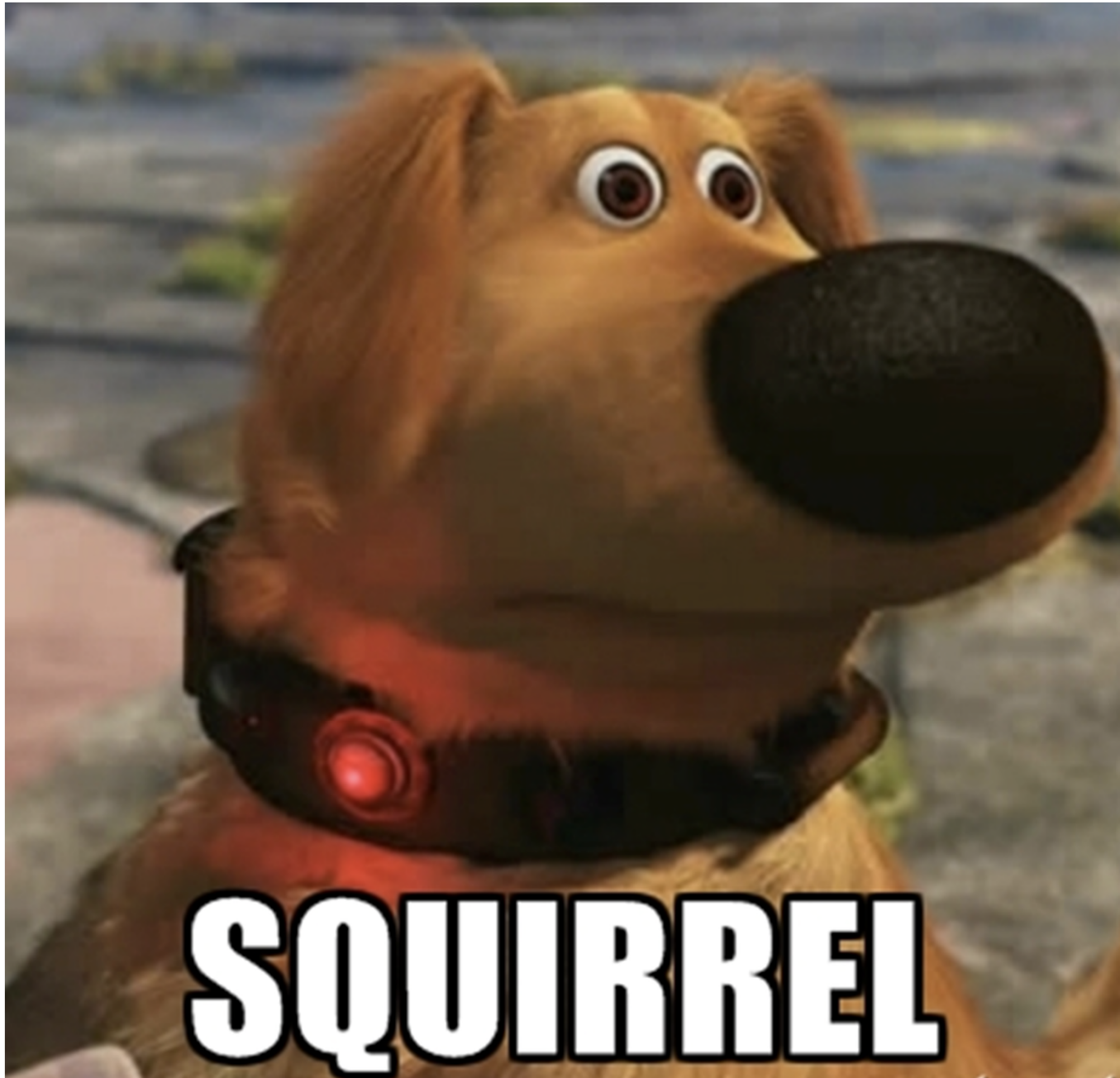


continuing education











SURVEY

All ERC CE Needs Assessment

- Survey Overview
 - Developed collaboratively with all ERCs
 - Sent to all ERC CE Directors via email and Survey Monkey and redistributed to state listservs
 - 609 survey responses from 44 states and 6 countries
 - Results analyzed and distributed

NIOSH All ERC Continuing Education Needs and Interest Assessment (2015/2016)

Report written by Lilianna Tenney and Joshua Scott of the Mountain and Plains ERC

Executive Summary:

In October 2015, the Mountains and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC), in conjunction with all 18 NIOSH-funded Education and Research Centers, conducted a national continuing education (CE) needs assessment. ERCs across the country distributed the survey through university listservs, professional and trade associations, student groups, and credentialing institutions that require CE.

There were 610 survey responses from 41 states and 7 entities outside the U.S. (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Malaysia, Taiwan, U.S. Virgin Islands). The population was split in age with roughly 52% ≥ 55 years of age and 48% < 55 years of age. Respondents mainly identified as occupational health nurses (32%), safety professionals (31%) and industrial hygienists (22%) working in the private sector.

When answering about CE opportunities and format preferences, respondents had mixed results. Although roughly 80% of respondents had participated in an online or hybrid course, only 45% preferred this option. Alternatively, nearly 80% of respondents preferred live or in person options, but only 55% had participated. This indicates that although online is not preferred, it is potentially selected out of convenience. In addition, those who prefer online course options, seek courses that provide downloadable content – i.e., videos, lectures, PDFs (67%) and credits (65%).

The majority of respondents belonged to a professional association and had resources dedicated to CE (80% >\$500 / year). Topics of interest varied greatly across occupations, but most occupations preferred to receive information about CE from their professional organization, listservs, and/or from advertisements in trade publications. Although, desired pricing also varied greatly, respondents typically expected to pay more for in-person and more advanced courses.

As ERCs continue to develop online and in-person courses it will be critical to be proactive to the needs of the occupational safety and health community rather than reactive to work related health issues. There will always be the need for high quality traditional course offerings such as continuing education and professional certification reviews for occupational health nurses, industrial hygienists, and safety professionals. However, CE course development, delivery, and marketing should be nimble and relevant for the occupational health and safety community we serve. Developing relevant CE courses and creating tailored pricing specific to occupation will help ensure that professionals who need training have access to the courses they desire.

All ERC CE Needs Assessment

- Survey Outline

- Demographic Information:

- State, profession, industry, association affiliation, age range

- Course Structure:

- Format preference (e.g. online, hybrid or live), content/topics, course type, credits, online features, price points

- Marketing and Outreach:

- Information streams, certifications, past experiences, content wants/needs.

All ERC CE Needs Assessment

Which best describes your.....		
Profession	Age	Employer Type
Occupational Health Nursing (32%)	55-64 (41%)	Private Industry (61%)
Safety (31%)	45-54 (28%)	State Govt. (13%)
Industrial Hygiene (22%)	35-44 (12%)	Federal Govt. (11%)
Occupational Medicine (15%)	65-74 (11%)	NGO (10%)
Ergonomics (14%)	25-34 (8%)	Local Govt. (6%)
Total Worker Health (6%)	--	--
Worksite Wellness (5%)	--	--

All ERC CE Needs Assessment

CE Topic Interest

Basic

- Ergonomics, vulnerable worker populations, workers comp, occupational stress management, management and legal issues, workers comp

Advanced

- leadership skills, ergonomics, communication in accident prevention, musculoskeletal disorders, injury prevention, toxicology

All ERC CE Needs Assessment

CE Marketing

Where do you usually learn about continuing education program offerings?	All States (N = 609)
Email listservs	*68.3%
Local professional society announcements	**55.4%
Advertisements or announcements in publications	52.9%
From colleagues	40.0%
Online Search	35.1%
Conference expos	29.3%
Word of mouth	25.6%
Employer	16.2%
ERC website	10.9%

Note: "post mail" occurred numerous times in the "other" category, but was still less than 5% of responses

What influences your decision for selecting CE?	
Professional credentialing or recertification req.	*75.0%
Location of CE	**72.7%
Price of CE	66.5%
Organization needs	54.7%
Other – e.g., timing, topic, and value	6.0%

All ERC CE Needs Assessment

CE Pricing

Answer	Online – basic (1-3 hours)	Online - advanced (> 4 hours)	In-person – basic	In-person - advanced
\$0-24	**27.3%	9.6%	4.1%	2.3%
\$25-49	20.0%	12.8%	7.7%	2.0%
\$50-99	*28.3%	**25.0%	**26.6%	6.6%
\$100-299	18.0%	*33.3%	*43.1%	**31.0%
\$300-499	2.3%	11.6%	10.2%	**29.8%
\$500-999	--	3.4%	4.8%	19.1%
>\$1000	--	0.0%	0.4%	6.1%

Big Takeaways!

Location (73%) and credits (75%) influence decision for selecting CE

Professionals are willing to pay more for advanced courses, if they are in person

More professionals take more online, but prefer in person (80% vs. 45%)

Big Takeaways!

Listservs and professional society announcements are best for dissemination and engagement in courses

Professionals are interested in a huge range of topics, so it's our responsibility to analyze the market before diving in

What are we doing about it?





QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!