PSU PARTNERING WITH OHSU EHRSPortland State University (PSU) and the Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) have enjoyed many successful collaborations together. A current example of this is the Collaborative Life Science Bldg. that is being erected on the south waterfront. We now have another example of a Strategic Partnership between OHSU and PSU in the Facilities and Planning Department.

After several discussions with OHSU on the benefits that could be reaped by shared knowledge and resources in the field of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), a Partnership has been created between OHSU’s Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) department, and PSU’s EHS department. This partnership is characterized in the form of a part-time position in FAP’s EHS dept. that is being filled by OHSU’s John W. Burnham, Ph.D. John holds an M.S. in Environmental Health from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Oklahoma State University.

John recently accepted the part-time position of Assistant Director for EHS at PSU while continuing to work at OHSU EHRS, also on a part-time basis. John has been the Director of EHRS at OHSU for 13 years. This arrangement will allow the safety and environmental programs at both schools to explore existing programs, processes and policies with the ultimate goal of implementing best practices.

John partners with PSU’s EHS Manager, Heather Randol, to manage the EHS department. Heather has an M.A. in Environmental Policy and has been an EHS professional for 15 years, including 6 years at the University of California, Berkeley. She joined PSU’s EHS department in 2010 as a Senior Environmental Advisor, and began managing the group in November 2011.

The top goals that Heather, John and the EHS Department are focusing on are:
1) Identifying and prioritizing EHS goals and objectives.
2) Developing strategies to enhance and improve EHS programs across campus
3) Identifying areas of potential collaboration between PSU EHS and OHSU EHRS.

The members of the PSU EHS Team are:
Chuck Cooper
Chuck provides EHS expertise to faculty and students in support of research in SRTC and across campus.
Scott Jaqua
PSU’s new Radiation Safety Officer! Scott ensures the safety of faculty and students whose research includes the use of radioactive materials.
Jason Mitchell
Jason supports and implements campus wide EHS programs, responds to indoor air quality concerns, and provides ergonomic consultations.
Tim O’Brien
Tim oversees the daily operations of the new Hazardous Waste Facility from his office in SRTC.
Ruben Torres
Ruben ensures that Facilities and Planning work crews have the training and resources to do their jobs safely.

If you are interested in campus EHS issues, please contact Heather or John with comments, ideas or suggestions. And Thank you for Engaging!
Heather - hrandol@pdx.edu  John - burnham2@pdx.edu
Facilities EHS web page: www.pdx.edu/fap/environmental-health-safety