The primary high-impact outcomes from our Training Grant program center around two main areas: increasing the number of qualified OS&H personnel in the local and regional workforce and practice-based internship experience in OS&H. To those ends, our program, over the past reporting period has proven extremely successful. In the aim of increasing the number of qualified OS&H personnel in the region is due to a number of factors, not least of which is the need. The current shortfall in the occupational health and safety workforce in the USA has been well documented in recent years. This shortfall has been well established for both short and long-term needs. For example, the Occupational Outlook Handbook (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012) and the National Employment Matrix (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012), both published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicate that both the overall need and growth in the field of occupational health and safety will continue to increase. For longer-term prospects in occupational health and safety, BLS states that the expected employment of occupational health and safety specialists is expected to increase around 14% by 2016. For the reporting period, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, the supported students have made a significant impact in increasing the overall number of qualified OS&H personnel in the region. Of the program-supported students, the first continues to pursue his DrPH with an emphasis on ergonomics and sedentary behavior in office workers and the second continues her MPH related coursework and is scheduled to graduate in May 2015. As a department, over the reporting period, we have graduated 27 total graduate students currently working in OS&H-related fields. Another significant activity of the program is the internship experience. The internships provide invaluable training for the students and often result in permanent employment upon graduation. In fact, many of the graduates are employed as specialists. Internships are required for the students with many finishing their MSPH/MPH or DrPH degrees with two full-semester internships.

For the reporting period, the supported students successfully completed practicum internship experiences at Boeing Inc. in Seattle, Washington as an HSE interns working on safety and ergonomic improvements on the assembly line and with StatOil as an OHS&E Intern working on onshore safe practices manuals revisions based out of Houston, TX. One of the supported students is continuing with SPH to complete their coursework in Occupational Safety & Health (MPH), the other graduated in May 2015 and is currently pursuing a law degree focusing on Occupational Safety & Health. Overall, as a department over the reporting period, there were 31 internships completed by graduate students in OS&H-related fields. Additionally, the faculty were awarded several seed grants for our new faculty and their labs along with multiple seed and startup grants including $177,000 in Industry Sponsored Research Projects (J&JO, OERC, Dell, HP) and a $347,527 three-year NIH grant that focuses on mobility outcomes with obesity.

Program Leadership and Affiliated Faculty Publications:
2. Paterson, C; Miller, K; Benden, M; Shipp, E; Pickens, A; Wendel, M; Pronovost, P., The Safe Day Call: Reducing Silos in Health Care Through Frontline Risk Assessment, Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety, Volume 40, Number 10, October 2014, pp. 476.

Program Related Presentations: