

## Interdisciplinary Coordination Field Trip to Dow Chemical

On June 10, 2015, the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, a NIOSH-funded Education and Research Center (ERC) sponsored an educational tour of the Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, Texas, also known as Dow Freeport. This trip was one of several educational events this year in which the ERC promoted interdisciplinary experiences for our trainees.



Dow Freeport employs approximately 7,000 employees in 65 manufacturing units that are organized into four major complexes. The facility occupies over 7,000 acres along the Texas gulf coast.

Our group was welcomed by Dow's health and safety team, and we had extraordinary access to their occupational medicine physician, safety professionals, industrial hygienists and plant operators. The visit also included a walking tour of a light hydrocarbon production facility that produces ethylene, a raw material used in the synthesis of plastics. After the tour, Dow's health and safety professionals shared their highly detailed processes for collecting and analyzing exposure data, a rare insight into real-world challenges and solutions for our students.