Mission
As one of the 1st and continuously funded NIOSH ERCs in the nation, the SWCOEH has a 45-year history of commitment to addressing issues on occupational safety and health. With contributions from partners in industry, government, and community organizations, the SWCOEH’s mission is to promote and improve health, safety, and well-being for workers and their communities through inspiring education, innovative research, and engaging outreach in Public Health Region 6: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Education and research-based training program for improving workers’ well-being and business performance

Purpose
To empower workers and their communities to attain their well-being goals in work and life. Three core values, excellence, collaboration, and integrity, guide our work.

Industrial Hygiene (IH) — To anticipate, recognize, evaluate, control, and protect workers from workplace hazards that may result in injury and illness.

Occupational Medicine (OM) — To diagnose and treat work-related injuries and illnesses and promote the well-being of workers.

Occupational Epidemiology (Occ Epi) — To identify and evaluate work-related exposures that may be linked to risks for injury and illness.

Total Worker Health (TWH) — 1st graduate level program in TWH in the U.S. dedicated to identifying, characterizing, and integrating workers’ well-being and safety and developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies, policies, and programs to improve health.

Traineeships Benefits — Tuition & fees, travel funds, an a monthly stipend for U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

All graduates are employed and currently serving the needs of communities, industry, government and academia

Industrial Hygiene
• Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM
• Lawrence Livermore Nat’l Lab., CA
• BAE Systems, Incorporated, PA
• U.S. Airforce

Occupational Medicine
• Memorial Hermann, TX
• Phillips 66 refinery, TX
• U.S. CDC

Occupational Epidemiology
• UTHealth Houston, TX
• U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, TX
• National Center for Farmworker Health
• National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

SWCOEH ERC Minority Alumni Success Stories
R. Daywalker — African American, 1st TWH trainee in the US currently working on her dissertation after completing her residency in Occupational Medicine has been appointed Medical Director at WorkSTEPS, a large provider of Fit-for-Duty evaluations.

W. Harrison—African American, started her journey at Tulane University in New Orleans, graduated from the Occupational Epidemiology program, and has been appointed as a Public Health Informaticist with the Washington State Department of Health.

A. Rodriguez—Latina, raised in an agricultural migrant family from South Texas, graduated from the Occupational Epidemiology program and is now an Assistant Professor focusing on occupational health and safety among agricultural workers.
Pilot Projects Research Training Program

Promotes regional inter-institutional ties by fostering short-term research projects initiated by investigators and research trainees in AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX.

National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) sectors: Services; Oil and gas extraction; Public Safety; Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; and Construction; and cross-sectors: respiratory health, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, injuries, and musculoskeletal health. Also, novel issues such as nanotechnology or application of innovative technology (‘prevention through design’).

AR  Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
LA  Louisiana State University, Southeastern University, and Tulane University
NM  University of New Mexico, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
OK  Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, University of Tulsa
TX  Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University, Texas A&M components, Texas Tech, Texas Woman’s, University of Houston, University of Texas components

Funded Research Projects
- **UTHealth School of Public Health**—Cooling vests for heat strain in construction workers; maternal occupational exposures and birth defects; or, disease risk perception and preventive care among household cleaners
- **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences**—Aerosolized Human Papilloma Virus in health care workers
- **Texas A&M HSC**—Evaluation of exoskeleton fit, use, and associated neurophysiological costs
- **Oklahoma State University**—Mitigating infection risks to airborne SARS-CoV-2 in patient rooms
- **New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology**—Respirable silica dust characteristics and sources in the mining industry
- **Southeastern Louisiana University**—Importance of exercises for low back pain in construction workers

Updating knowledge, skills, & current practices

Continuing Education
Provides easy access to a wide range of specialized training for physicians, nurses, industrial hygienists, safety professionals and other occupational safety and health professionals to better protect workers’ health and improve how they do their job.

Outreach
We aim to increase awareness and positively impact worker health, safety, and well-being translate science into practice by collaborating with businesses, community groups, advocacy groups, and governmental agencies.

On-site training to over 4,000 workers and 46 businesses on keeping workers and customers safe, returning to work, use of personal protective equipment.

Worked with 41 community partners to facilitate over 66 on-site vaccine clinics in small, medium, and large employers in AR, OK, and TX, for 3,400 workers and their families.


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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Million</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
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Contact Hours
Professionals Trained
In-person & e-trainings
In 2017-2022
19,847
4,532
135
In all states

Online training hours
Attendees
Webinars & media
In 2021-2022
1,569
1,245
36