



Campus Update, June 2014

March 2014 – May 2014

Third-hand Smoke Studies Help Prompt Legislation

The California Assembly approved a bill in April that would ban smoking inside home day care centers even after the children have left. This is a regulation that targets lingering “third-hand smoke” and has been adopted by twelve other states. Smoking is already banned in homes that function as day care centers during their operating hours to prevent second-hand smoke exposure. Lab staff have been at the forefront of research on third-hand smoke, recently confirming that third-hand smoke causes DNA damage.

Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Lab staff has volunteered to help with this year's Daughters and Sons to Work Day. The help was needed to chaperone groups of school-aged guests, service workshops, science festival, and other activities throughout the day. Employees were invited to bring a youngster family member, relative, or friend to the Lab. The event included hands-on experiments, a science festival, lunch, and an ice cream social, among others, and was opened to children ages nine to sixteen.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Gets Underway

The Lab Director has recently announced Diversity and Inclusion as one of the major initiatives at the Lab. The Initiative's goal is to foster a diverse workforce and a culture of inclusion in order to attract and engage the best talent. Q&A with the Director highlighted the motivation for the Initiative, what efforts the Lab will make to improve diversity and inclusion, what a success will look like. A new committee has been created to provide advice to Lab leadership on hiring and recruiting practices, family-friendly policies, mentoring, leadership, and other areas. Focus groups are being conducted to solicit feedback from staff. A new series titled “Panorama: Many Voices, Many Perspectives” have been launched to highlight how issues around diversity and inclusion have played a role in people's lives, as told by Lab employees. The inaugural piece featured Natalie Roe, director of the Physics Division and co-lead of the Initiative. As part of the promotion of family-friendly policies in the workplace, a new category of “Baby/Children/Maternity” has been added to the Lab's Flea Market website allowing to donate, sell, or find items. Also, two new Lactation Rooms have been added in new locations.

Invitation to Comment on Updates to Whistleblower Protection Policy

The UC is soliciting employees comments on proposed changes to the Whistleblower Protection Policy (WPP), which applies to all employees. The proposed changes ensure 18 months processing period, as required by CA Whistleblower Protection Act, and address difficulties in the administration of the WPP to improve the experience for complaints. The Lab staff were reminded that they have a duty to report allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, misuse, corruption, criminal acts and mismanagement under DOE Order 221.1A, “Reporting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse to the Office of Inspector General.” Reports can be made to the supervisor, any level of management, or directly to the DOE Office of Inspector General, which has authority to investigate violations such as false statements, false claims, bribery, kickbacks, fraud, ESH violations, theft, computer crimes, contractor mischarging, and conflicts of interest. Whistleblowers are protected from retaliation under UC/LBNL policy, state, and federal regulations.

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