

2022 Risk Impact Award Winner Summary

Congratulations to the Following Individuals

Megan Perez – Gateway Technical College

Nominated by Jacqueline Morris / Susan Debe

- The college is committed to the health and safety of students and staff during these times. Gateway created a team -- Gateway Preparedness and Stabilization (GSPS) committee -- to first provide guidance for our Redhawk Return to Campus tactics and second to share insight and thought to our financial outlook for the academic year. As the Benefits Manager, Magan Perez was asked to be a part of this committee. Throughout the strategic discussion, it was determined that someone would have to take the lead on Covid contact tracing students and staff due to the limited capacity of the health department. Magan has been leading this effort since March 2020. She volunteered to receive training from the health department in order to access the confidential data to provide our students and staff timely information regarding their isolation status.
- Magan has also attended many webinars to be able to update the Executive Leadership Council on updates from the CDC. Magan also created a dashboard to keep the Gateway committee up to date with the Covid cases. Magan was able to provide this service to the college as well as perform her essential job functions.
- Magan's dedication and additional effort and support to mitigate pandemic risks prepared and continue to assist the college during the past, current, future pandemic and post-pandemic environment.

Dave Saunders and Mark Sieben (Welding & Maintenance Instructors) - Lakeshore Technical College

Nominated by Sheila Schetter

- On the morning of November 12, 2021, Maintenance Mechanic instructor Mark Sieben noticed the smell of gas near the back of the weld lab in the PEM building. He is not normally the instructor in this lab, so he approached welding instructor Dave Saunders near the front of the lab, and both proceeded to the rear of the lab to investigate further. While walking to the rear of the lab Dave Saunders noticed the Propylene gas light illuminated displaying low cylinder pressure. Upon reaching the gas cylinder storage room and opening the door, he found the room to be full of a cloud of gas. The instructors immediately evacuated the students from the lab and contacted facilities who in turn notified the Incident Management Team who responded to further investigate the situation.
- The incident management team (IMT) conducted their investigation with gas detection equipment. Initial readings within the weld lab were 26 parts per million (PPM) Volatile



Organic Chemicals (VOC), 0% flammable gas Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), and no oxygen deficiency was noted.

- Upon investigating the gas cylinder supply room, readings were 4ppm VOC, 0% LEL, and no oxygen deficiency. Dave Saunders identified the source being a seal in the supply piping that failed, allowing the propylene gas cylinder to leak and thus activate the low-pressure light. The gas cylinder house has a ventilating system that expels over-pressure into the weld lab that permitted the smell of flammable gas to enter the weld lab area.
- The IMT reviewed the Propylene Safety Data Sheet from Airgas, identified that the chemical is highly flammable, but no flammability levels were found. The chemical has vapor density of 1.5, meaning it tends to cloud lower to the ground. The IMT investigated the lower and upper levels of the building. The chemical has a Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for an 8 hour day of 500 parts per million, well above the instrument readings.
- The mezzanine and upper-level equipment rooms were also investigated with readings of 0% LEL, 21 ppm VOC and no oxygen deficiency. The roof hatch was opened to assist with ventilating the upper areas and the air handlers were adjusted to assist with air exchange in the building. No current instrument readings met or exceeded the safety threshold limits.
- **The swift action of the instructors prevented the gas to reach emergent levels. Our faculty, facilities and IMT acted in a professional, calm, and emergent manner with the safety of students and staff top of mind.**