Meet CSHEMA Volunteer
Brock A. Young

What is the biggest problem you face at your institution?
Communication. Figuring who is doing what is the root of the challenge. It makes it difficult to know what information and services we need to provide and to whom we need to provide them.

Proudest professional accomplishment so far?
Establishing our dedicated EH&S training lab and the corresponding lab safety hands-on training course we offer there has revolutionized how lab personnel are trained at our institution. More recently, I authored mandatory COVID-19 awareness training for all employees and students.

Where do you see yourself in five years?
I want to continue to work to expand and refine the safety and training programs at the University of Nevada, Reno. This is a never-ending challenge at institutions of higher education.

What do you think the future of the EHS profession will look like?
Safety-specific software to facilitate assessments and send out auto reminders for deficiencies and training reminders is becoming more and more critical as populations, diversity of research, and safety expectations grow. The biggest changes in EH&S in academia have been in new and emerging tech.

How has being a member of CSHEMA benefited you/your institution?
It has been a great source of inspiration. It is comforting to know that we are all facing similar challenges and members are largely more than willing to share their successes (and failures) to give others a leg up on addressing problems.

Hobbies?
Cooking, softball, disc golf, camping... I have a wonderful wife who is a Veterinary Technician and a two-year-old daughter. We have two dogs and seven chickens. We try to spend as much time outside as possible.

Areas of expertise?
My educational background is in biochemistry/biotechnology with a bit of organic chemistry. I have held positions with our regulated waste and chemical inventory groups prior to my current position. I am an OSHA General Industry authorized outreach trainer and an American Heart Association Basic Life Support instructor.