What has been the most rewarding experience as the DLSC for the Chemistry department?

I take great pride in serving as our DLSC. Each year, I get to train numerous graduate and undergraduate students about lab safety. It is interesting to see how students coming from different backgrounds and ethnicities view lab safety differently. When students come with some sort of fear of lab accidents, after the training, they have great peace of mind since they know as long as they follow all the safety protocol, they should be just fine! That is the most rewarding experience.

Where would you like to see the Chemistry Safety Program in the next few years?

I would like to see increased awareness and safety put first. Also, I would like to see a good safety culture development among our graduate students, visiting scholars, and our faculty.

What advice would you give to those that are looking to start a safety program in their department?

It is an important and most challenging program to develop in research departments. If it is too much for a single person to oversee safety, I would highly recommend creating a small safety committee and distributing the responsibilities among the committee members.

What do you wish others knew or understood about safety?

I wish people understood that the safety lessons they can learn from EH&S at ISU is that if you diligently practice it while in the lab or the classroom, it will follow you home and improve your safety in everything you do. Like I said earlier, it's part of a lifestyle.