Fostering a safe and healthy environment for our staff, volunteers, interns and visitors is not only one of our highest priorities at the Smithsonian, but also one of mine personally. That is why I appreciate the job you have done over the past few years. Our accident and injury rates have continued to decrease and our performance compares favorably to similar organizations and the rest of the Federal government. As we celebrate those successes, we know we cannot rest on our laurels. We need to continue to aim towards a goal of zero injuries.

A comprehensive, self-sustaining culture of employee safety and health encourages professional fulfillment, promotes employee effectiveness and increases productivity. Fulfilling these objectives requires us all to pursue our mission in a safe and healthy manner. That means complying at all times with safety, health, and environmental laws, regulations, standards and best management practices.

The Smithsonian’s Safety, Health and Environmental Management program requires the commitment and dedication of all to ensure that we continue to:

- Create a culture that embraces and promotes a safe and healthy workplace, free from recognized hazards and dedicated to a goal of zero injuries;
- Support the identification and correction of all safety, health and environmental hazards and report all workplace injuries in a timely fashion;
- Champion and participate in workplace health and wellness initiatives, including occupational health risk-management programs;
- Adhere to workplace best practices to judiciously use and conserve natural resources and protect the environment; and
- Safeguard our staff, volunteers, interns, visitors, collections and buildings from fire and other natural and man-made threats.

Managers and supervisors will lead the way in maintaining our robust culture of safety and health. As both a cardiologist and your Secretary, I encourage all of you to embrace these efforts, speak up when you see the opportunity to improve safety, and give us feedback on how we can best improve these initiatives. Working together, we can continue to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all. Thank you for your commitment to our goals and for all that you do on behalf of the Smithsonian.

Sincerely,

David J. Skorton
Secretary

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