Better Know a Department

I was given the task of researching the safety department in order to find out a little bit more of how the major and department functions and does their research as a whole. I have had no previous experience with the safety department and it was very interesting to find out some information. I interviewed Dr. Todd Smith who is an Assistant Professor in the Safety Department.

The safety department offers many paths into the workforce. They offer degrees in Safety Development, Environmental Safety, Public Health Administration, and a few others. They also offer many options to study abroad. In the safety field, students learn how to prevent the possible problems and learn how to spot things that could cause problems. They also learn how to check equipment, food, and nature for things that could go wrong. Dr. Smith told me that from what he has been told, the favorite classes among students are the Intro to Public Safety class and the Field Experience in Environmental Health. He said, “Students love being able to get in the field and learn what it is like to be on the job and doing what they have been training for.” Learning hands on is what suits me best, and I could definitely see how that would be one of the favorite classes. In order to gain admission in to The School of Public Health, students must complete the entry level courses and then be accepted by admissions. There are a total of five classes that need to be passed in order to be eligible to enter the school. There are many extracurricular activities
that the school offers. Including clubs and groups that meet. From study groups to volunteer at companies that often hire students from Indiana University.

Dr. Todd Smith was once a nurse at a hospital in West Virginia. He said that he dealt with many construction related injuries, and one day he decided instead of treat the injuries, why not help prevent them. He said that is how he became passionate and he never wants to do anything else. Dr. Smith is currently researching new ways to prevent injuries in Industrial Hygiene. Dr. Smith said that many students take an intro class because they have nothing else to take and end up really enjoying the program and stick with it.

I learned that there is a lot of success from this program. Two of the last three years, they have won award for the best safety department in the whole country. They also have a 100% job placement three to six months after graduation. The Starting salary for those jobs is usually anywhere between 45$-70$ an hour. I learned that informational interviewing can be a little awkward when you aren’t totally prepared for it. But it's fun and a great learning opportunity. I’m still not sold on what my major is going to be. So being able to go and find out a little bit about a field of study gives me ideas to go do it with more fields and maybe that will help me decide what I am going to end up doing.

The best part about this program and the most attractive would be their success. Students go to work all over the country and get a good salary. It is very attractive to any student looking for a major. They offer many events where students can come and learn about the major and all it has to offer.