

ESCO Receives Distinguished SHARP Award from OSHA



A SHARP award banner was presented by SDSU Engineering Extension officials to ESCO Manufacturing. Pictured from left to right are Laurie Gates, ESCO Human Resources Manager; Kevin Dalsted, SDSU Engineering Resource Center Director; Mark Stein, ESCO President, Beth Malsom, Safety and Health Consultant, Engineering Extension; and James Manning, Engineering Extension Program Director.

ESCO Manufacturing, Inc. in Watertown received a 2007 SHARP award for operating an exemplary safety and health management system.

To qualify for SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) status, a company must:

- Undergo complete and comprehensive safety and health audits;
- Correct all hazards identified by the consultant;
- Implement and maintain an exemplary safety and health management system;
- Lower company lost-workday injury and illness rate and total recordable case rate below the national average.

SHARP award recipients are exempt from OSHA compliance office inspections for a period of two years. "A SHARP inspection is a very rigorous activity for a company to undergo," said James Manning, program director for South Dakota OSHA Consultation through Engineering Extension at South Dakota State University. "For one thing, their occupational accident and illness rates must be below the national average to even begin the process of SHARP application. So not every company in South Dakota even wants to try."

Under the OSHA-funded Consultation Program for the State of South Dakota, which is administered by the Engineering Extension Office at SDSU, smaller private-sector businesses can receive assistance in complying with Federal OSHA regulations without cost and without fines or citations. Engineering Extension also administers the SHARP Program.

July 5, 2007