

# A Lifetime Dedicated to Making Workplaces Safe

by Dana Cole  
Sierra Vista, Arizona

David V. MacCollum, known for visionary achievements as a safety engineer, is being recognized for a lifetime of contributions in the safety profession.

Recently, during a reception in his Sierra Vista home, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) recognized MacCollum by naming a \$2,000 scholarship in his honor. In addition, he was presented with a plaque by Don Eshelby on behalf of the BCSP, a board dedicated to certifying practitioners in the safety profession. MacCollum's presentation was made before members of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

"The Certified Safety Professional Award of Excellence is given to one individual each year with the greatest contribution to the safety profession," Eshelby said. The \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student, safety educator, college professor or an individual who works in the safety field.

During a discussion about MacCollum's career and contributions, Eshelby said, "With around 10,000 Certified Safety Professional certifications throughout the world, David MacCollum holds the third certificate. He's one of the very few individuals who has achieved as much recognition and respect from safety professionals."

In addition to the BCSP scholarship, the Southern Arizona ASSE established and named a visionary scholarship after MacCollum, also honoring his extensive list of contributions to the safety profession, in recognition of a career that spans more than 60 years.

Shari DiPeso, Southern Arizona ASSE president, said, "We are very fortunate to have an individual like David as part of our chapter and part of the safety community. His contributions to the body of knowledge for the safety profession are legion. His energy, focus and intellect in so many areas have resulted in better designs, which have saved numerous lives. It is only fitting that our scholarship, which will support the next generation of safety professionals, be named in his honor."

The ASSE is currently building the fully funded \$30,000 scholarship which will be administered through the ASSE National Foundation, said Mark Grushka, a health and safety consultant and ASSE member. "Once we reach the \$30,000 goal, we are hoping this will become self-sustaining, so a deserving student in the health safety or environmental field will be given a \$1,000 scholarship each year."

MacCollum, 90, is a past ASSE president and was a member of the first U.S. Secretary of Labor's Construction Safety Advisory Committee (1969-1972). In 1999 the ASSE named MacCollum a Fellow, the Society's most prestigious honor, recognizing a lifetime of commitment to the occupational safety and health profession.

"I've been a maverick, fighting the system forever," smiled MacCollum, whose interest in occupational safety dates back to 1946 during a time when he worked in the logging industry while attending college at Oregon State University. "I witnessed a lot of very serious accidents on that job, where one man a month was killed," he said. MacCollum's experiences in the logging industry served as a driving force behind rollover protection structures for tractors and other construction equipment, which he developed in the 1950s while working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Oregon.

Through his role as an occupational safety engineer, MacCollum fought for improved safety conditions for workers in a wide range of industries. "I have always believed you can prevent serious injuries by eliminating hazards, but there were many times when I had to fight to get my ideas accepted."

MacCollum has authored four industry-related books, along with a novel, *Murder by Electrocutation*, published in 2010. In addition, he has published more than 400 articles and has written for numerous industry-related newsletters.

David MacCollum and his wife of 61 years, Nancy, are longtime Sierra Vista residents.

Founded in 1911, the ASSE is the oldest and largest professional safety organization in the world, said Grushka. As a global association of occupational safety professionals, it represents more than 35,000 members worldwide. Through its proactive efforts of creating safer work environments, its members record less lost time and lower workers' compensation costs, increased productivity and higher employee satisfaction.

The BCSP Scholarship Fund was established within with ASSEF to encourage entry into and advancement of the safety profession. For information, go to the American Society of Safety Engineers Foundation website at [www.asse.org/foundation](http://www.asse.org/foundation).

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