

Alfred University to host symposium on health and safety in art facilities

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ALFRED, NY Alfred University will host a symposium aimed at promoting safety in college and university art studios on Monday, March 14. The Studio and Art Environmental Health and Safety Symposium will provide information on regulatory compliance in art studios. Representatives from the AU office of Environmental Health and Safety and School of Art and Design will direct the symposium. Among those attending will be representatives of college art programs and members of industry and the health care and legal fields. The goal of the symposium, according to Julia Taylor, director of environmental health and safety at AU, is to stress the need for implementing safe standards of operation at art production facilities, where potentially hazardous materials are often used, through compliance with existing regulations. "Just because artists use hazardous materials, it doesn't mean they have to live and work in unhealthy environments," Taylor said. "We feel maintaining a safe environment is as important as the process of making art." The symposium, scheduled for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Kenyon-Allen-Davis Room of Alfred University's Powell Campus Center, is co-sponsored by AU and the SUNY Environmental Health and Safety Association (SEHSA) Professional Development Fund. Topics that will be discussed include: art and theater safety, shop safety; industrial hygiene, behavioral based safety; identifying and addressing wastewater and storm water permitting issues; use of personal protective equipment and other safety equipment in the higher education process; common environmental compliance issues in college art studios; and opportunities for waste minimization. The event will include a tour of the AU College of Ceramics' School of Art and Design. Vendors present at the symposium will include safety equipment suppliers, environmental analysts, representatives of the emergency response field, and attorneys specializing in environmental health and safety laws. Cost of attending the symposium is \$25 for SEHSA members and \$35 for non-SEHSA members. Anyone wishing to register to attend should call Taylor at 607-871-2190 or email her at taylorjm@alfred.edu.