Field and Lab Safety Recommendations

Field Safety

● Give students the opportunity to have an official uniform if requested (neon safety vest or NC state gear)
● Department vehicles could have official university logos.
● Dashboard placards or door magnets available for personal vehicle use.
● Limit time in field alone/ require field work to be done in pairs
● If work alone is unavoidable, use a check out and check in procedure wherein a supervisor knows your location and intended time back at all times.
● If work is in remote areas without cell reception - use SPOT devices or other satellite communication devices - possibly provide these devices through department field equipment checkout so that they can be shared as needed
● Empower field technicians/students to have the power to say no under any and all circumstances. STOP WORK protocols can be enacted by all without repercussions.
● If there are several people doing field work with similar potential hazards - have a weekly safety meeting where someone presents a short ~3-5 minute talk on a pertinent hazard (IE: snow driving in the winter or ticks in the spring)
● Have an emergency evacuation plan in place and walk through drills of how these mechanisms would actually work. Simulated emergency medical situations are great.
● School/supervisors pay to bring in instructor to talk about wilderness first aid
● Allow accommodations for students who may have additional burdens associated with the rigors of field work
● Enforce a respectful environment amongst field teams and the communities in which they will work.
● Make reporting of unsafe field conditions or disrespectful interactions with other humans in the field a normalized practices with appropriate solutions-oriented reactions to such reporting- make this public
● Regularly audit field safety guidelines.
● Make funding for housing for overnight field work available, including separate rooms when requested.- possibly through an alumni network?
● Make policies clear
● Increase training for risk from humans in field work.
● Create a sign-up sheet for other grads who want to help with field work and for people needing help to advertise.

(most of these recommendations apply more to work in remote places and I'm not sure how much some it really applies here....)

Lab Safety

● Require multiple people in the lab at the same time for doing lab work (especially risky work)
● Require (and enforce) lab specific hazard training with lab manager or PI before any labwork is conducted
● Requiring and enforcing sensible standard operating procedures
- Weekly safety inspections by lab manager or PI
- Accountability for reporting of unsafe lab spaces or practices - could take the form of revoking lab space from non compliant labs?
  - Clear reporting protocol
  - Real consequences for unsafe conditions
  - Consequences for pressuring students to accept unsafe conditions in the interest of getting research done
- Regularly audit field safety guidelines.
- Require regular safety refreshers for all lab workers.
- Appoint someone in each lab as a safety proctor who is more concerned with safety than productivity at all times and who students with safety complaints can anonymously confide in.