

NEHA NEWS

NEHA Launches NEW Training Opportunity for the Food Service Industry

NEHA is excited to announce a new training initiative for the food service industry. Industry-Foodborne Illness Investigation Training (I-FIIT) is a face-to-face workshop designed to bring together food service representatives and their appropriate local and state regulatory officials in an effort to create stronger working relationships prior to a potential foodborne incident occurring, so that if and when it does, the foundation is already set for a collaborative effort. Additionally, the workshop will provide a better understanding and clarification of the investigation process by identifying roles and responsibilities, discussing early detection strategies, and establishing and implementing control measures based on model practices. By providing this training, I-FIIT aims to assist industry and regulatory officials in producing a more rapid, efficient, and effective response to foodborne illness incidents.

The training was developed collaboratively by a dedicated and knowledgeable work group that brought together representatives from industry and local, state, and federal agencies, as well as legal, academic, and private consultants. This one-day workshop is recommended for retail food store/restaurant professionals at midlevel management and above, and combines interactive group exercises, open discussion sessions, and lectures spanning the scope of an investigation. Upon completion of the course, each attendee will be awarded with a certificate of completion and 7.5 NEHA continuing education hours.

Ultimately, at the end of the day, I-FIIT is all about relationship building, specifically environmental public health and industry working together to respond to the people we all serve...the public! As an association committed to environmental and other health professionals, we at NEHA firmly believe that improving communication and cooperation between industry and regulatory officials is an essential element in preventing outbreaks of foodborne illness.

If your food service establishment is interested in finding out more about sponsoring a workshop, please contact Elizabeth Landeen at elandeen@neha.org. You may also visit NEHA's Web site at www.neha.org/ifit/index.html for additional information, including a list of the module topics and course objectives.

Staff Profile: Trisha Bramwell

I am originally from North Carolina. My family moved to Colorado when I was young. I loved it here so much that I have never left and call Colorado my home. I have no desire to leave this beautiful state and believe that any reason to be outside is a good one!

My passion in life is to help others. I have been able to fulfill this by going on mission trips. I even helped put a roof on an orphanage in Mexico, which was quite a rewarding experience. I have volunteered my time to work for an organization called World Vision in which I raised money to feed, clothe, and bring a better quality of life to children and their families living in the U.S. and abroad. I believe you never know the impact you may have on someone's life so cherish every moment. Other passions of mine include art work and writing. I paint, draw, and write whenever I have the chance. I also enjoy music and playing the guitar.

I have had the opportunity to work in a variety of fields. I have worked in grocery and retail stores, in a warehouse dealing with hazardous materials, and have even climbed trees as a tree trimmer. The biggest achievement of all so far is being fortunate enough to be working for a great organization such as NEHA. Once again, I have the opportunity to be part of an organization that helps others. My hopes are to make a valid contribution to NEHA as one of its customer service representative specialists. In this position I am in contact with NEHA's membership on a daily basis—fielding calls and e-mails about memberships, order placements, and other member services. I also assist NEHA's finance department through invoicing and accounts receivable. I am very excited to see where my future will take me working for NEHA. I have finally found a career that I can call home.

Note of Thanks to Departing Board Members

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and efforts of two members of the NEHA board of directors on the occasion of their departure from the board: Region 7 Vice President Tom Ward and Immediate Past President Welford Roberts.

**Region 7 Vice President Tom Ward**

leaves the board after 12 years of dedicated service and leadership. Tom joined the NEHA board in 1999 and has been an active supporter of NEHA and his region's affiliates. Tom formerly worked in several different county health departments in North Carolina for over 40 years. He was awarded the

North Carolina Public Health Association's W.A. Bill Broadway Award for Professional Excellence in Environmental Health in 1998 and the Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award in 1996. Tom was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf