

NEHA NEWS

NEHA Supports National Healthy Schools Day

By Vanessa DeArman (vdearman@neha.org)

National Healthy Schools Day (NHSD) is April 3, 2018. NEHA is pleased to partner again with the Healthy Schools Network (www.healthyschools.org) to support and promote this event. NEHA has been a supporter since 2011.

NHSD is coordinated by the Healthy Schools Network in partnership with many agencies and organizations. Together they promote the use of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools guidance (www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/index.html), as well as other U.S. EPA environmental health guidelines and programs for schools and children's health.

The Healthy Schools Network is the leading national voice for children's environmental health in schools and is an award winning 501c3 nonprofit environmental health organization. Founded in 1995, the network launched the national healthy schools movement with comprehensive state policy recommendations and a model coalition. It has since fostered reform coalitions in many states and localities.

Environmental health professionals recognize children's environmental health as a priority area. This recognition is reflected in NEHA's work in school integrated pest management, school IAQ, and food safety in schools. We are proud to again join our colleagues to offer strong support of this year's NHSD.

For more information about NHSD, please visit www.nationahealthyschoolsday.org or follow the conversation on Twitter at #HealthySchoolsDay.

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their one-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know the NEHA staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to two NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 49.

**Jonna Ashley**

I am originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, and studied art and art history at the University of Virginia. After college, I moved to Washington, DC, where I began my career in associations—and I never looked back! Before becoming NEHA's membership manager, I worked in associations in Washington, DC,

and Chicago, doing everything from member services to affiliate relations and international programs. My true enthusiasm for association work lies in being able to help members make connections and develop professionally in their chosen career. My big challenging goal at NEHA is to establish a growing community of engaged members and affiliates who are supported and empowered through NEHA membership. I believe that this goal can be accomplished by providing every NEHA member with a valuable membership experience.

When I'm not at work I can usually be found enjoying time with my family, including my incredibly cute and rambunctious toddler. In my fleeting moments of free time I peruse other passions such as art and design projects, volunteer in support of causes that are meaningful to me, and get outside.

Please reach out to me with your thoughts, concerns, and expectations of NEHA membership at jashley@neha.org.

**Kristie Denbrock**

Even as a small girl I always wanted to be outside. I was the one using a fallen tree branch as a fishing pole in mud puddles and sailing peanut shells down rain-flooded street gutters. The majestic change of colors during a Michigan autumn, my home state, still amazes me. When the opportunity arose to work for a nonprofit association whose mission

is to protect the public and the environments in which they live, those long ago memories came rushing back.

I am not new to Colorado. I began my career working in the media, including print, radio, and television, during and after graduating from Colorado State University–Pueblo. I returned to Michigan and received my master of public administration from Western Michigan University while working as deputy director of communications for the Michigan State Senate. Prior to returning to Colorado in 2017, I was the consortium coordinator and an adjunct faculty member at Michigan State University in the Online Master of Science in Food Safety program.

As chief learning officer at NEHA, I take pride in representing and working with our caring and dedicated environmental health professionals. I am excited to have an opportunity where my past career experiences can help build a strong NEHA. I will strive to develop the educational tools necessary for environmental health professionals to succeed and to continue to be our unsung heroes. 🐾