

NEHA 2015 AEC WRAP-UP

IMAGINING THE NEW NEHA

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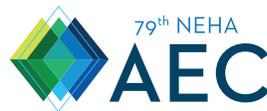
ORLANDO, FLORIDA!

Almost 1,000 environmental health professionals flocked to this hot and sunny location to attend NEHA's 2015 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition, July 13–15. This year's theme, "Imagine the New NEHA: Tools for Success Today and Making a Difference Tomorrow," played out in numerous ways throughout the conference. And what was palpable to all in attendance was the heightened level of excitement and energy as NEHA was launched into a new era.

The usual suspects formed the backbone of the conference: the multitude of environmental health sessions, the interactive Exhibition, and the networking events full of comradery and pure fun. New components to the conference—the meeting app, the use of social media, a different opening session, and a unique keynote—infused a fresh twist on the solid core of the conference. Tie it all together and attendees were treated to a multifaceted experience that provided education, training, networking, advancement, motivation, inspiration, policy involvement, and sheer enjoyment!

We thank all of our fantastic attendees, presenters, and exhibitors for making the 2015 AEC such a success. We truly hope that every one of you who made the trip to Orlando found it to be a rewarding and informative experience that will help you perform your duties and advance your career.

Check out the amazing AEC video (<https://youtu.be/SQF5evW8lo>) to relive the memories and get psyched for the 2016 AEC. Flip back to pages 50 and 51 for information about the exciting 2016 AEC taking place in San Antonio, Texas, and the Call for Abstracts.



NEHA 2015 AEC photos courtesy of Joe Deats Photography, Michele Samaryya-Timm, Colleen Mattoza, and Kristen Ruby-Cisneros.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION



Imagine this scene. A packed ballroom. A black table-clothed table with two wine glasses and bottle of red wine are on stage. A lone man sits on a stool and addresses the audience in an honest and intimate manner. This man is NEHA's newly appointed executive director, Dr. David Dyjack, and he provided a unique keynote to AEC attendees.

Dr. Dyjack shared with the audience three basic principles that he promises to operate under as follows: 1) environmental health is a contact sport, 2) we need to remove the invisibility cloak from the profession, and 3) we need a more disciplined effort toward going global. He went on to share stories and thoughts that tie into these principles. Rather than provide a written record of the presentation, we encourage you to go to www.neha2015aec.org/keynote-presentation and view it yourself! This is one presentation that should not be missed by anyone!

OPENING WELCOME

Conference attendees were brought together on the first day of the conference with a brief opening session. The room exploded and attendees came to their feet as NEHA President Dr. Carolyn Harvey opened the session and introduced Dr. David Dyjack as NEHA's new executive director. The standing ovation reflected the tone felt throughout the conference and the tremendous amount of optimism for NEHA's future under his leadership.

The opening went on to include a live singing of the national anthem by NEHA staff member Kristen Ruby-Cisneros and a welcoming statement from Dr. Pat Breyse, director of the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. A brief awards ceremony ended the session. A second awards ceremony took place after the Keynote Presentation and a list of award winners can be found on page 60.



In his welcome, Dr. Breyse reaffirmed the importance of the profession, described the major initiatives of his agency, and charged attendees to continue to innovate.

“The environmental health workforce works tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of everyone and at the AEC we have an opportunity to reaffirm and re-energize ourselves and our missions.”
– AEC attendee



On behalf of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Joyce Jensen and Scott Holmes (left) accepted the Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award presented to them by Dr. Carolyn Harvey (right).



NEHA's very own Kristen Ruby-Cisneros belted out the National Anthem acappella.



The educational program at the AEC continued to go above and beyond, covering relevant and current topics throughout many avenues of environmental health. This year featured 150 exciting sessions and over 30 posters with 285 speakers extending over 22 tracks. Always on the cutting edge of current environmental health issues, this year's AEC did not disappoint. Session topics included the effects of legalizing marijuana, goals for reducing emissions and conserving water at the Disney World Resort in Florida, and emergency preparedness at the Kennedy Space Center. As one attendee put it, "Choosing which educational session to go to is akin to a child trying to decide which sweet to buy in a candy shop." The Food Safety track was on the top of its game again at the 2015 AEC, kicking off the conference with the Food Safety Focus Series, which included talk-show panel discussions and conversations about the Partnership for Food Protection. Attendees were later given the exciting opportunity to participate in a food safety training discussion, while a cartoonist conveyed their ideas and suggestions onto paper.

The AEC included three preconference workshops built around the most popular credentials offered through NEHA. The courses spanned over two and a half days and included the opportunity to take the exam on site. The three courses offered were Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian, Certified Professional—Food Safety, and the Certified in Comprehensive Food Safety. Over 50 environmental health professionals participated in the preconference workshops and exams.

Field trips are always an exciting and unique way to experience the educational value of the AEC host city. This year, attendees had the opportunity to do a "behind the scenes" tour of Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark. Participants were able to learn integrated approaches to recreational water illness and injury prevention as well as the building process for a waterpark and the training and education involved. AEC attendees were also able to tour the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association's (FOWA's) training center. This field trip provided a number of hands-on workstations, featuring above-ground low-pressure distribution, various tanks and their components,

"The NEHA presenters gave inspiring presentations that encourage me to keep developing my professional abilities so that I may have greater career opportunities in the future."

— AEC attendee

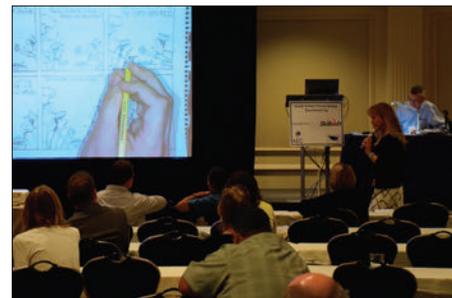
numerous aerobic treatment units, media filters, and performance-based treatment systems. We extend our gratitude to FOWA's Executive Director Roxanne Groover for hosting this special event!

The AEC would not be successful without the help of our incredible team of technical advisors who volunteer their time and energy into making sure we are offering the best education for attendees. The full listing of the 2014–2015 technical advisors is on page 49.

We also want to acknowledge our appreciation to our partners who assist in the education of the conference: the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs, the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration.



With so many excellent sessions to choose from attendees took a few moments to map out their schedule for the day.



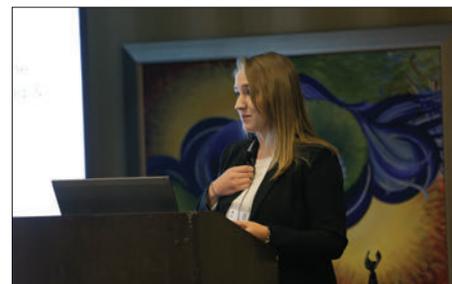
In one of the more unique sessions, attendees helped to create a food defense cartoon and got to see their suggestions drawn out live by the artist.



A packed session room with engaged attendees!



Alan Tart, Adam London, and Roy Kroeger (left to right) made up one of the Food Safety Focus Series panels and presented on bringing an integrated food safety system into reality.



Student Abigail Tompkins presented her research on the characterization of fog machine aerosols and its potential health hazards.

2015 AEC Session Tracks

- Children's Environmental Health
- Climate Change
- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Emerging Environmental Health Issues
- Environmental Health Impact Assessment
- Environmental Health Tracking & Informatics
- Environmental Justice
- Food Safety
- International Environmental Health
- Leadership/Management
- Onsite Wastewater
- Pathogens & Outbreaks
- Recreational Waters
- Risk Assessment
- Schools
- Student Research Presentations
- Sustainability
- Sustainable Solid Waste
- Technology & Environmental Health
- Uniformed Services
- Vector Control & Zoonotic Disease
- Water Quality

“We are separated most of the year from our environmental health colleagues and friends across the country ... the AEC provides the opportunity to unite both personally and professionally, which cannot be replicated in any other venue.”

– AEC attendee



Attendees were treated to a wealth of expert speakers on a wide variety of environmental health topics.



The Poster Session in the Exhibition was a hit with attendees and offered an excellent opportunity for interactive learning.



The NEHA staff pitched in to assemble moderator packets for the next day's sessions. Way to go, team!



The tour to Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark, gave attendees a hands-on look at environmental health in action.

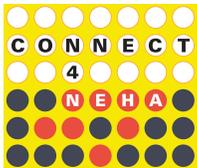
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RECORDED SESSIONS



Not able to attend the AEC? Did you attend but weren't able to sit in on a session that piqued your interest? We've got you covered! You can access more than 30 educational sessions that were recorded at the AEC. This is a **free** benefit for those who attended the conference. For those unable to attend the conference, these sessions can be purchased for \$99/members or \$215/nonmembers. This online archive of sessions enables you to view sessions on demand at your convenience; access speaker presentations, handouts, and other materials; and earn 20–30 NEHA continuing education hours. Details on the recorded session can be found at www.neha2015aec.org/recorded-sessions.



AEC MEETING APP A SUCCESS!



A highlight of the 2015 AEC was the new **Connect4 NEHA** app game, which was evident in the Exhibition and throughout the first two days of the AEC. It was great to

see so many people embrace technology and connect digitally! Close to 70% used the app to add sessions and events to their schedule, create a profile, swap digital business cards, scan QR codes to earn points, and more.

Attendees earned different amounts of points for a variety of conference activities including attending sessions and events, meeting and scanning other attendees' badges, sending a tweet, visiting an exhibitor, and meeting an award winner. Two drawings were held based on total points earned in three different point categories, one on Monday and one on Tuesday. We were pleasantly surprised to find quite a few of you made it to the Master of the Universe level, with 1,000 or more points! We always knew our environmental health professionals would rise to any challenge!

Monday App Contest Winners

- \$100 Amazon gift card for Master of the AEC Universe (1,000+ points): Stephen Gilman
- \$50 Amazon gift card for AEC Leader (500–1,000 points): Andrew Roszak
- \$25 Amazon gift card for AEC Champion (250–499 points): Stacie Duitsman



NEHA RVPs Ned Therien (left) and Keith Johnson (right) get into the app spirit and help each other scan their QR codes!



Scanning an event QR code.



Monday's Master of the AEC Universe Stephen Gilman (left) is awarded his prize by NEHA staff member Clare Sinacori (right).

Tuesday App Contest Winners

- \$100 Amazon gift card for Master of the AEC Universe (1,000+ points): Janie Cambron
 - \$50 Amazon gift card for AEC Leader (500–1,000 points): David Ruhl
 - \$25 Amazon gift card for AEC Champion (250–499 points): Sherry Glick
- The following are the overall top app scores for the 2015 AEC:
- Stephen Gilman: 1,536 points
 - Sara Coly: 1,459 points
 - Lavone Lee: 1,295 points
 - Janie Cambron: 1,252 points
 - Andrew Roszak: 1,206 points
 - Roy Kroeger: 1,181 points
 - Sheila Pressley: 1,156 points
 - Ernesta Hickman: 1,063 points
 - Dawn Helms: 1,001 points

Beyond the winners and the points earned, use of the AEC meeting app greatly contributes toward our efforts to green our conference and reduce paper consumption while encouraging more interactions and use of technology to get the most out of the conference. Thank you to all for participating!

A sample of quotes from the AEC meeting app's Chatter page:

RPS/RPES Sara Coly

I never tweeted before the conference, but the words of knowledge and wisdom from presenters are worth a tweet #nehaaec

Janie Cambron

great facilitated group discussion on health literacy in environmental justice session #nehaaec

Abigail Tompkins

"Environmental Health is a contact sport" I'll be #teamNEHA from now on... #nehaaec. Thank you to @DTDyjack for the conversational twist on EH

Jenifer George

I'm excited for tomorrow! For the first time attending it has been very educational and I have enjoyed all the networking! There are so many great people attending!

Erin Cavin

so excited to be attending such great classes right out the gate at the NEHA AEC!

Jennifer Osorio

@DTDyjack great motivational talk!!! let's see where NEHA can go #nehaaec



EVENTS GALORE AT THE AEC

There were so many ways to network at the AEC and attendees took full advantage of the opportunities. The annual UL Event started the conference off with a trip to Universal's City Walk and cocktails and appetizers in the Hard Rock Café's hip and swanky John Lennon Room. Other events such as the Networking Luncheon, Exhibition, and Presidents Banquet brought attendees together and were hugely successful. Planned and impromptu, there were numerous meetings, dinners, and happy hours where attendees shared insights and knowledge and were able to kick back and just enjoy the company of each other.

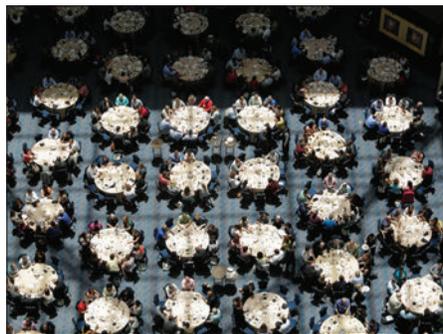
P.S. You missed out if you didn't get a chance to stop by the Florida Environmental Health Association's silent auction and social event—the room was hopping with energy and fun!



Attendees networked on the private John Lennon Room patio during the UL Event.



The UL Event sparked many fascinating conversations. We can only imagine what Dr. Dyjack was discussing here!



A birds-eye view of the Networking Luncheon.



A Presidents Banquet tradition—the passing of the gavel from NEHA's immediate past president to incoming president.

THE AEC INVADES TWITTER



Social media played a heightened role at this year's AEC. Along with the meeting app, Twitter was a popular way to instantly share conference thoughts, images, and information. Using #nehaaec, 125 people tweeted about the AEC with 1,132 tweets and 872,514 impressions (for the time period of July 1–31). Tweets covered a broad range of topics from newly formed friendships and reconnections with old ones to the keynote and a wide variety of sessions, plus all the different conference events.

Andy Roszak (@andyroszak) led the way in tweeting about the AEC and you definitely need to check out the video he put together and posted via Twitter:

@andyroszak: My great week at #nehaaec—video featuring @DTDyjack @ushahmd @LisaBrownMPH @kristen_e_ruby @abigailvonne_ & more! <https://youtu.be/1BhezJsvtKo>

Not on Twitter? If you plan to attend next year, consider creating an account so you don't miss out! Start by following NEHA at @nehaorg.

A shout out to those who made the leader boards for tweets and mentions (and people you might want to consider following!).

Top Five by Mentions

1. @dtdyjack
2. @andyroszak
3. @nehaorg
4. @kristen_e_ruby
5. @michelesamaryat

Top Five by Tweets

1. @andyroszak
2. @michelesamaryat
3. @swallingford82
4. @kristen_e_ruby
5. @mononacoenviron

FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EVENT

NEHAs 2015 AEC Community Volunteer Event was fun, inspirational, and educational! NEHA continues this event as part of its sustainability initiatives to help offset the energy expenditures from hosting a conference. This year we had 14 volunteers and many of them are “regulars” who return each year. That’s commitment and loyalty!

Clean the World Foundation

The event was held again this year at the Clean the World Foundation (CTW) recycling operation center, but this time in Orlando. CTW only has two U.S. facilities—one in Las Vegas and one in Orlando. Lucky us!

CTW’s mission is to collect and recycle soap and shampoo products and distribute to those in need. CTW helps prevent millions of deaths caused by hygiene-related illnesses. It’s a great partnership for NEHA! Learn more about CTW’s activities including its safe recycling process at <https://cleantheworld.org/>.

Continuing Education Offered

New for this year: volunteers received 0.5 continuing education units! In addition to



Our dedicated gang of volunteers!

sorting 11,000 bottles and 4,000 soaps, and boxing up 20 boxes of product, volunteers listened to a presentation on CTW’s mission and activities as well as took a tour to learn about their soap rebatching, melting, and sterilization processes. It inspired many of us to make this event bigger and better!

Sponsorship

A big THANK YOU goes to Starbucks who sponsored the bus to/from the event and pro-



Volunteers worked hard to sort a table full of different amenities.

vided snacks and reusable cups. NEHA again provided water and collapsible water bottles.

Thank you!

Volunteers and NEHA staff also donated about four pounds of travel-size amenities. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their continued dedication and participation! If you missed out this year, please volunteer next year in San Antonio. Your ideas are welcome!

Sponsors

(listed in order of highest contribution to lowest)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| UL | Mitchell Humphrey & Co. |
| Abila | Orkin |
| American Public University | Anua |
| Accela
(formerly Decade Software Company) | ITW Pro Brands |
| NSF | Micro Essential Laboratory |
| Digital Health Department | Presby Environmental, Inc. |
| National Restaurant Association | Starbucks Coffee Company |
| Prometric | Sweeps Software, Inc. |
| Skillsoft | YUM! Brands |
| XTIVIA | |

Partners & Grants

- Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
- Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ National Center for Environmental Health Food and Drug Administration*
- Indian Health Service
- NEHA Technical Advisors
- Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service

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EXHIBITION

Monday night July 13 kicked off the 2015 Exhibition Grand Opening & Party with great energy and enthusiasm from attendees! NEHA got to show off its new exhibit booth but best of all was seeing the friendly faces of our members in person and welcoming them side-by-side with our faithful exhibitors. The conference would not be a success without the help of many partners, and we owe our deep gratitude to those who exhibited with us in Orlando. Also new this year, we hosted Tuesday's coffee break and lunch in the Exhibition, which offered additional networking time to meet with exhibitors and each other. In keeping with our efforts to be greener this year, door prizes were randomly selected electronically from the AEC attendee list and more than a dozen door prizes were given on both Monday and Tuesday.

Thank You for Door Prize Donations!

- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health/Peter Wright
- Georgia Affiliate
- Indiana Affiliate
- Kansas Affiliate
- Massachusetts Affiliate
- Missouri Affiliate
- Montana Affiliate
- NEHA
- NSF
- Terry Osner
- The University of Findlay



Attendees were able to get valuable one-on-one interactions with exhibitors.



The exhibitors loved being at the AEC!



Networking with exhibitors enabled attendees to learn more about new products and invaluable services.



There was a great turnout on the opening night of the Exhibition.

2015 AEC Exhibitors

- | | |
|--|--|
| AEHAP
American Academy of Sanitarians
American Chemistry Council
American Public Health Association
American Public University
Anua
Association of Food and Drug Officials
Association of Professional Piercers
CDC—National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Columbia Southern University
Custom Data Processing, Inc.
Decade Software, an Accela Company
Digital Health Department, Inc.
Eljen Corporation
Environmental Hazards Services
Environmental Information Association
Food and Drug Administration
Florida Environmental Health Association
Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
GLO GERM
HealthSpace USA Inc.
Hedgerow Software Ltd
HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
IAPMO R&T
Industrial Test Systems, Inc.
ITW PRO Brands | IVS—Integrated Veteran Services
LaMotte Company
Mattress Safe, Inc.
Micro Essential Laboratory
Mitchell Humphrey
MSU Online MS in Food Safety Program
Mycometer
National Library of Medicine
National Restaurant Association
National Swimming Pool Foundation
NCBRT
NSF
Ozark River Portable Sinks
Paster Training Inc.
Polylok Inc.
Presby Environmental, Inc.
Prometric
QuanTEM Laboratories
San Jamar
Shat-R-Shield Inc.
Skillsoft
StateFoodSafety.com
Sweeps Software
The University of Findlay
ThermoWorks
Underwriters Laboratories
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
XTIVIA |
|--|--|



AWARDS AND HONORS

Numerous notable individuals and organizations were recognized at the AEC. For more information about each award, please go to www.neha.org/about-neha/awards.

A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award

Peter Thornton

Excellence in Sustainability Award

City of Columbus, Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Joe Beck Educational Contribution Award

James English

Past Presidents Award

Sheila Pressley

Sabbatical Exchange Award

Michael A. Pascucilla

Dr. R. Neil Lowry Grant

Columbus Public Health,
Environmental Health Division (OH)

Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
(NE)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes

Cross Program Coordination

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Public Housing/Multifamily Supported Housing

Wisconsin Housing and Economic
Development Authority

Public Policy

Breathe Easy Coalition of Maine

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

Christopher Conrad

Elizabeth Pirtle

Jennie Wong

Shanta Zietz

NSF International Scholarship

Natasha Borgen

Student Research Presentations

Amanda Bewley

Adam Mannarino

Linzi Thompson

Abigail Tompkins

Decade Scholarship Awards

Michelle Bilodeau

Lynn Bremby

Charles Daniel

Cindy Goocher

Claudia Herrera

Michele Howard

Eric Maday

Nikolay Ostrovskiy

Scott Reynolds

Michelle Rhone

Teresa Sherrod

Gregory Thomas

Aftan Vargas

Dawn Wair

Stewart Whitney

Outgoing Regional Vice President Award

Marcy Barnett

Outgoing President Award

Carolyn Harvey

Presidential Citations

Marcy Barnett

Darryl Booth

Edward Briggs

Gary Brown

Norbert Campbell

Alicia Collins

Brian Collins

Bob Custard

Tim Hatch

Keith Johnson

Roy Kroeger

Adam London

Sandra Long

Lynne Madison

Priscilla Oliver

Sheila Pressley

Vince Radke

David Riggs

Kristen Ruby-Cisneros

Henroy Scarlett

LCDR James Speckhart

Ned Therien

Certificates of Merit

Individual

Sandra R. Baniaga-Brown (NV)

Kimberley Carlton (MN)

CAPT Keith Cook (AK)

Thomas Dominick (AZ)

Scott Holmes (NE)

Michele Howard (Nat'l Capitol Area)

Danica M. Lee (CO)

Kathleen MacVarish (MA)

Colleen Maitoza (CA)

Noel Coleman Reid (Jamaica)

Team

AZ—Cheri Dale and David Morales

CO—Colorado Directors of Environmental
Health

MA—The Massachusetts Healthy
Cosmetology Committee

MN—Jeff Brown, Jesse Harmon, Sarah
Hogan, Caleb Johnson, Kyle Johnsen, Kris
Keller, Diane Olson, and Amy Zagar

Nat'l Capitol Area—Ronald Campbell,
Shannon McKeon, Nicole Biala, Jeanelle
Rogers, and Diana Rodriguez

VA—Daniel Blasche, Keith Ayotte, Tiffany
Johnson-Wiggins, and Corey Dixon



Richard Hicks and Keith Krinn (center) accepted the Excellence in Sustainability Award on behalf of the City of Columbus from UL's Joshua Jacobs (left) and NEHA's Dr. Carolyn Harvey (right).



Professor James English addressed the audience after receiving the Joe Beck Educational Contribution Award.



The Student Research Presentation and NSF International Scholarship winners.



The Decade Scholarship Award winners.



HUD's Peter Ashley and Michelle Miller (from left) and Matt Ammon (right) posed with representatives from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, Brenda Marquardt and Carol Keen (center).



Dr. Sheila Pressley accepted the NEHA Past Presidents Award on the last night of the AEC.

Walter F. Snyder Award

Ron Grimes, RS, MPH, DAAS

NSF International and NEHA presented this distinguished award to Ron Grimes, RS, MPH, DAAS. The Snyder Award, given in honor of NSF International's cofounder and first executive director Walter F. Snyder, is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental health. Grimes was honored for more than 40 years of significant and lasting contributions to environmental public health through his work on consensus national standards, education, leadership, and public service.

"Ron Grimes' achievements reflect the principles expressed by Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International," said NSF International President and CEO Kevan Lawlor. "His extensive knowledge of environmental health and his commitment to educating regulators and environmental health professionals demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of environmental health."

"Ron's leadership at the two health departments he directed, as well as his NEHA leadership and his role at NSF International,



Snyder Award winner Ron Grimes (center) is all smiles with Kevan Lawlor (left) and Dr. David Dyjack (right).

establish him as a highly regarded and respected leader in the environmental health community," said NEHA Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack.

To read more about Grimes' career, please visit www.nsf.com/newsroom/ron-grimes-earns-walter-f-snyder-environmental-health-award-from-nsf-inter.

Breaking News at the AEC

On Sunday, July 12, NEHA's board of directors voted to create the new Industry Affiliate! The mission of the affiliate is to provide an open forum where industry and service providers can work collaboratively on environmental health initiatives and to coordinate unified positions that help NEHA carry out its mandate. The Industry Affiliate later held a meeting at the AEC where interested attendees discussed the bylaws and the purpose of the group, as well as membership fees. Meeting attendees approved the affiliate bylaws and elected an interim board. It was an enthusiastic first meeting and the board is now working hard to put the infrastructure in place and to recruit members. Anyone interested in the new Industry Affiliate should contact Shelly Wallingford at swalling@starbucks.com.