

NEHA NEWS

me to think outside of the traditional definition of environmental health. My ultimate goal at NEHA is to create a robust data program that will support and meet the needs of health departments of all sizes.

In addition, I have a passion for participating in local public health initiatives happening in my community. Whether it is through volunteering, shadowing boots-on-the-ground environmental health professionals, or meeting with local community members, these experiences show me the breadth of public health and remind me why I pursued the field. I look forward to seeing NEHA's data program grow and evolve, and appreciate being a part of a group of passionate professionals who genuinely care about the wellbeing of their communities.



Sharon Unkart

I joined NEHA in October 2015 as an instructional designer. I work mainly in NEHA's Entrepreneurial Zone, where we collaborate with subject matter experts to create educational materials and online courses for food safety trainings. I also manage our Food Safety Instructor Cadre, a group of veteran industry and regulatory professionals

dedicated to improving food safety by providing engaging, authentic continuing education for their colleagues in the field. I love the

folks here at NEHA and am thoroughly enjoying working with all the dedicated professionals who make up our team, leadership, board, and membership.

After earning my bachelor's degree in environmental science from Metropolitan State College, I began my professional career as an environmental scientist. First with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in air quality, then with a small, local environmental consulting firm. While I enjoyed the work, I felt I could be doing more to make a difference in my world. Thinking back on the work that had been most gratifying while working through my first degree, I decided to go back to school and complete a master of arts in curriculum and instruction. From there, I taught high school biology and earth science, then moved into informal science education with a large, local science museum. Eventually, I became their teacher programs manager and that is where my love affair with adult education was born. I went on to teach graduate school and eventually earn my doctoral degree.

I bring a unique perspective to the role of instructional designer here at NEHA. I feel that it marries my 20 years of experience in both formal and informal science education with a new set of content—food safety. It has also provided me the opportunity to learn new skills while incorporating the research and literature from my doctorate. I love working here at NEHA and look forward to a future where a committed group of professionals is working together to make the world a better place. 🌱

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