

NEHA NEWS

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Having identified these key areas by environmental health professionals, the article additionally shares several problem statements identified through the focus group discussions for each of the challenge areas. These results can inform future priorities for the field.

Results from the key topics and problem statements can inform recommendations for environmental health practice. Three main topic areas are included in the recommendations, which include training, research, and partnerships. The training topic area focuses on professional credentials, academic preparation, and strategic national training. The research topic area recommends translational science partnerships, nontraditional partnerships, and joint leadership programs. Finally, the article recommends that partnerships highlight strategic research initiatives and integration with existing programs. From the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian credentials to robust science-based education, cross-disciplinary public health leadership programs, and translational research teams, these recommendations can better prepare the environmental health workforce.

Through the UNCOVER EH research project (www.neha.org/uncover-eh), the needs and challenges of the environmental health workforce have been identified. This new groundbreaking study has never been done before and the results are essential to advance the needs of environmental health professionals.

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversaries. 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 40.



Lindsy Darnell

I joined NEHA in March 2019 as the executive assistant to Dr. David Dyjack. In my role, I have a plethora of responsibilities that include scheduling, booking travel, external and internal communication, general coordination, and anything else that is asked of me. Recently, I've started to assist with accounts payable.

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, I grew up playing tennis. I carried that passion on with me through college, where I played tennis for the first year. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, followed by a master of arts in teaching, from the University of Arkansas (Woo Pig!). After graduating, I packed up and moved to Dallas, Texas, where I taught elementary math for 4 years and met my husband. In summer 2016, his job brought us out to Colorado, where I taught for another year. After much thought, I decided to take my career in a different path and found myself at NEHA. I knew I loved helping others and wanted to be a part of an organization that makes a difference, which is one of the things I love about NEHA.

In my personal life, I live with my husband in a suburb south of Denver. We have two golden retrievers, Izzy and Teddy, who constantly keep us on our toes. I love to hike, run, walk my dogs, and play tennis. I also enjoy skiing in the winter (when it's not too cold).



Cole Wilson

I was born and raised in Littleton, Colorado, and plan to spend the rest of my life here. In my free time I enjoy rock climbing, video games, and crochet. I graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in sociology. After college I spent several years working in the medical and recreational cannabis industry managing dispensaries. It was

a fun and exciting industry but not quite what I was looking for, which is why I joined NEHA in February 2019.

I have found an engaging and inspiring atmosphere of people at NEHA who are committed to environmental health. I am so excited to be a part of this team. In my role as training logistics and administrative coordinator, I get to travel all over the country to assist with Food and Drug Administration training programs. In these trainings, my team and I meet with local sanitarians and health inspectors and provide training to enable them to better keep the public safe and healthy. I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people and have gained a better understanding of food safety and its relationship to environmental health. 🐞

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