The 83rd Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition continued the National Environmental Health Association’s (NEHA) excellent track record of hosting a highly successful and innovative event. The 2019 AEC took place July 9–12 in the beautiful city of Nashville, Tennessee, affectionately referred to as the Music City because of its robust live music scene. Nearly 1,200 environmental health practitioners from all corners of the globe gathered together to meet, interact, and build their professional networks. Attendees learned how the perspectives of local agencies, industries, and levels of government fit into the universal language of environmental health and how their unique voices advance the profession to ensure the safety of the public and environment.

A highly informative and inspirational keynote address was delivered by Dr. Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Speaking to a capacity crowd, Dr. Kadlec discussed the urgency to protect our nation and its people during increasingly complex and dangerous environments. Dr. Kadlec highlighted opportunities for environmental health professionals to provide their expertise and engage in a shared disaster preparedness mission. He presented key initiatives and priorities of his office, stressing the importance of innovation, recovery after a disaster, and how to restore communities so that every person feels safe and secure upon returning home.

Following Dr. Kadlec’s address was Anne Godfrey, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Godfrey led a thought-provoking discussion about the history of the environmental health profession, its workforce, and how both have evolved over time. She shared many interesting facts, one being that environmental health practitioners in the United Kingdom were referred to as “Inspectors of Nuisance” back in the 1840s. Food safety, healthy homes, and other topics were covered, with Godfrey providing one of the great quotes of the day: “Size matters when it comes to advocacy but small organizations still have a voice with the expertise of professionals.”

The 2019 AEC hosted 205 educational sessions, workshops, and learning labs covering a wide range of prominent and emerging environmental health issues such as emergency response and preparedness, disaster relief and recovery, infectious and vectorborne diseases, climate and health, food safety, and retail food standards, as well as other environmental health topics. Over 250 speakers from around the world shared the latest information, trends, research, tools, and resources to packed rooms. The exhibit hall was filled with over 70 exhibitors from various industries showcasing innovative products and services that improve the job functions and performance of environmental health professionals.

Social events are a fun-filled and popular component of the AEC and this year provided attendees with some of the most exciting events to date! Nearly 800 people relaxed and socialized with their fellow peers aboard the General Jackson Showboat, enjoying scenic views as they cruised down the beautiful Cumberland River. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) hosted another successful UL Event at the historic Grand Ole Opry House. The event included an onstage dinner reception and tours were given backstage where many famous musical icons prepared before appearing on the world-renowned main stage.

NEHA wishes to thank its attendees, members, board, staff, technical advisors, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors who participated and contributed to the success of the 2019 AEC. The conference could not be possible without you! We look forward to seeing everyone next year in New York City for the 2020 AEC. Check out the promo for next year’s conference on page 67.
Keynote Address: July 9

Robert Kadlec, MS, MTM&H, MD, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Bringing federal medical and public health support to local and state authorities was the major theme of the 2019 AEC Keynote Address presented by Dr. Kadlec. He explained the structure of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the programs and roles it plays during a variety of disasters. These programs include 1) the National Disaster Medical System that supports patient care and movement, definitive care, and fatality management during emergencies; 2) the Hospital Preparedness Program that promotes a sustained national focus to improve patient outcomes, minimize the need for supplemental state and federal resources during emergencies, and enable rapid recovery; and 3) the Regional Disaster Health Response System that emphasizes collaboration among local healthcare coalitions, trauma centers, public and private healthcare facilities, and emergency medical services to expand access to specialty clinical care expertise and increase medical surge capacity. Dr. Kadlec concluded his presentation to the packed room by discussing the understanding of response and recovery and the anticipated challenges to environmental health.

Grand Session Kickoff: July 10

Anne Godfrey, CCMI FCIM, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

The first full day of educational sessions commenced with the Grand Session Kickoff presented by Anne Godfrey. Utilizing the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health’s history of over 130 years and keeping with the 2019 AEC theme (Local Voices. Universal Language.), Godfrey’s presentation was titled, “A Profession United? The Evolution of Environmental Health Practice.” She spoke of the key issues facing environmental health professionals as the profession has evolved, including austerity, changing food controls and delivery, and Brexit and its possible impact on public health and protection. She also addressed the declining UK environmental health workforce and having to “do more with less.” A recent Chartered Institute of Environmental Health workforce survey identified a 12% reduction in environmental health staff. Creativity and innovation, along with growth in the private and third-sector environmental health workforces, multidisciplinary professional teams, variation by region, and devolved nations, were areas she addressed to combat the declining workforce. Godfrey concluded with examples of a “caring profession” that consists of passion, partnership, professionals, and unity of purpose. Emphasizing the importance of every environmental health professional, she closed by saying that major impacts happen because “one environmental health officer cared.”

Closing Session: July 12

Grayson Brown, PhD, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit

The 2019 AEC came to a close with a presentation from Dr. Brown on the rapid changes taking place in the field of vector management and control in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit is an initiative of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust, a private nonprofit organization. The unit focuses on strengthening the capacity for vector control in Puerto Rico, as well as implementing vector surveillance, creating innovative information systems, carry out vector control operations, and boosting community engagement. Its overall vision is, “Striving together for a Puerto Rico free from mosquito-borne disease.” Dr. Brown began the Closing Session with a review of the current status of vector management programs and the current challenges with insecticide resistance, invasive species, and regulatory and legal issues. He went on to discuss new and emerging vectorborne disease threats, as well as new technology to address these threats with an emphasis on how they can be adapted into ongoing programs. Dr. Brown closed his presentation with insights on the progress being made toward a national strategy for integrated vector management and funding prospects of such an initiative.
More than 200 educational, informative, and inspiring sessions along with nearly 1,200 attentive attendees demonstrated at the 2019 AEC that the environmental health profession does speak in local voices that make up a universal language. The sessions encompassed the wide scope of environmental health (see sidebar on page 57 for a list of session tracks) and spanned over three days of the conference.

There was standing-room only for many of the emerging issue topics such as new data and technology developments, cannabis, and the latest food safety regulations and practices. “I was able to collaborate with other environmental professionals and gather ideas to bring back to my organization,” one attendee commented on the conference evaluation. Overall, 94% of attendees rated the conference as meeting or exceeding their expectations. In terms of why they attended, 88% of conference attendees wanted to learn more about the most current trends in environmental health, 74% wanted to connect with other environmental health professionals, and 51% wanted to earn continuing education credits.

Sessions with universal appeal garnered the highest attendance. These sessions included the interactive Learning Labs, “Water Emergencies and Outbreaks: Tools and Guidance for Preparedness and Response” presented by Jonathan Yoder from the National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and “A NEHA LeaderHERship Sessions: EH Workplace Matters and Sorry, Not Sorry; How to Speak With Authority and Confidence” presented by Michéle Samarya-Timm from the Somerset County Department of Health. As one attendee stated, “Several talks were directly relevant to my job and role. I was able to learn new skills that will help me develop as a professional.”

CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health, cosponsors of the 2019 AEC, hosted water and food safety sessions that were popular with the attendees. Presentation included “Improving Restaurant Food Safety: CDC’s Practice-Based Research; “Critical Contributions: Cases Studies on Environmental Health and Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigations;” and “Environmental Health Data That Inform Foodborne Illness Outbreak Prevention: CDC’s National Environmental Assessment Reporting System.”

As in past years, several presentations were recorded at the conference and were made available to 2019 AEC attendees in September to view on NEHA’s learning management system. In March 2020, NEHA members will be given access to these presentations. The recorded presentations cover a variety of topics including food safety, cannabis, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), vector control and vectorborne diseases, climate change, and water quality. The Keynote Address, Grand Session Kickoff, and Closing Session were also recorded.

Networking opportunities at the AEC are instrumental in bringing together those who work in the next office, city, county, state, and country. “Networking at NEHA is always among the best, so many opportunities to engage with colleagues from around the world! Saw so many valuable presentations and a wide variety of topics and speakers,” commented one attendee. Another attendee went on to say that the 2019 AEC was a “well balanced slate of opportunities for learning and networking.”

While the 2019 AEC was just a few months back, work is already under way for the 2020 AEC. The 2020 AEC, NEHA’s 84th annual conference, will take place July 13–16 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel in New York City. Preconference workshops will take place prior to that on July 11–12. The Call for Abstracts is open until October 7. NEHA seeks abstracts that address the latest advances in environmental health, as well as practical applications in both public and private sectors. Visit www.neha.org/aec/abstracts for more information. And stay tuned to www.neha.org/aec over the coming months as we start to post information about registration, lodging, special events, and the educational program.
This year’s educational program featured over 200 sessions within 10 tracks and 32 disciplines.

1. Climate & Health
   » Climate Change

2. Data & Technology
   » Environmental Health Tracking & Informatics
   » Technology & Environmental Health

3. Emergency Preparedness
   » Emergency Preparedness & Response

4. Food
   » Food Safety & Defense
   » Home Restaurants

5. General Environmental Health
   » Air Quality
   » Emerging Environmental Health Issues

6. Healthy Communities
   » EH Health Impact Assessment
   » Healthy Homes & Communities
   » Land Use Planning & Design
   » Lead
   » School & Institutions

7. Infectious and Vectorborne Diseases
   » Pathogens & Outbreaks
   » Vector Control & Zoonotic Diseases

8. Special Populations
   » Children’s Environmental Health
   » Environmental Justice
   » Uniformed Services

9. Water
   » Onsite Wastewater
   » Premise Plumbing
   » Recreational Water (including shorelines)
   » Unregulated Drinking Water
   » Water Quality
   » Water Reuse

10. Workforce & Leadership
    » Leadership/Management/Enumeration
    » Student & Young Professional Career Development

2019 AEC SESSION TRACKS

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**
NEHA 2019 AEC WRAP-UP

Education & Training

Preconference Courses & Workshops

More than 200 attendees enhanced their knowledge and AEC experience with one of the seven preconference offerings at the 2019 AEC.

As in previous years, attendees had the opportunity to take a review course and exam at the AEC for two of NEHA’s most popular credentials—the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) and Certified Professional–Food Safety (CP-FS) credentials. The CP-FS Review Course prepared 16 attendees and the REHS/RS Review Course prepared 25 attendees for each credential’s respective exam. A total of 41 attendees kicked off the AEC by taking a NEHA credential exam with 85% receiving a passing score.

NEHA continued offering some of the most successful preconference workshops from previous years. Nearly 40 affiliate leaders attended the Affiliate Leadership Workshop to learn about government advocacy and what role they can play for their environmental health associations surrounding advocacy at the local level. The Survival Skills for Environmental Health Leaders Workshop was once again a success in teaching leadership and management skills in an engaging environment to emerging professionals.

A handful of new preconference workshops were offered in Nashville on a variety of topics. NEHA partnered with ecoAmerica, Climate for Health to combat the growing concern of climate change and solutions. In the NEHA/ Food and Drug Administration’s National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Self-Assessment and Verification Audit Workshop, attendees were given an overview of the program standards criteria and hands-on experience in conducting a self-assessment or verification audit. In the Instructional Skills Training, attendees learned how to make presentations and teaching more exciting in a full-day workshop that taught participants how to deliver effective and engaging training geared specifically toward adults.

Student Poster Session

A wide spectrum of environmental health research topics were displayed and presented during the Student Poster Session. In total, 29 posters were displayed in the exhibit hall. Topics ranged from establishing an air monitoring network for wildfire smoke, mosquito surveillance, and food allergy awareness training to assessing e-cigarette use in educational institutions through an ecological framework. One attendee commented, “The student presentations were excellent and a great way to meet other academics.”

Student Activities

Students are an important part of the NEHA community. To recognize this key group of members, NEHA held a Student Welcome Reception before the Keynote Address on July 9. During this networking event, students had the opportunity to connect with leadership and get acquainted with programming NEHA offers for the next generation of environmental health professionals at the conference and throughout the year.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of NEHA’s longtime partner, the National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC). To celebrate its anniversary, EHAC created a large poster representing their history supporting environmental health academic programs and their students. The poster was displayed prominently through the duration of the conference. EHAC schools also encouraged their students to present research posters in the exhibit hall, which contributed to the large number of students in attendance at the 2019 AEC.
Social Events

GENERAL JACKSON SHOWBOAT EVENT: JULY 10

Nearly 800 attendees enjoyed a warm summer evening in Nashville cruising down the Cumberland River toward the downtown Nashville skyline. Attendees enjoyed a variety of Tennessee-inspired cuisines and ice-cold beverages during the 3.5 hour cruise. Those onboard networked, relaxed, and danced the night away while up-and-coming country singer and songwriter Jay Bragg kept the entertainment going into the evening. Thank you to Hedgerow Software US, Inc. for sponsoring the onboard photo booth where guests snapped a photo to commemorate the evening. And thank you to the attendees for making the General Jackson Showboat Event a night to remember.

GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE UL EVENT: JULY 11

Attendees of this year’s sold out UL Event got to explore what many refer to as “the heart of country music.” The evening at the Grand Ole Opry House included an onstage dinner reception, backstage tours, and the once in a lifetime experience of standing where country music legends like Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Dolly Parton have performed. The historic venue set the stage for attendees to connect with old friends, meet new colleagues, and expand their network. Thank you to Underwriters Laboratories for continuing to sponsor this exciting event!

2019 AEC SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

We appreciate the following sponsors and organizations that helped make the 2019 AEC possible!

Diamond Sponsor
Underwriters Laboratories

Platinum Sponsors
Accela
National Restaurant Association
NSF International

Gold Sponsors
GOJO Industries
Hedgerow Software US, Inc.
Home Depot

Silver Sponsor
American Chemistry Council

Partners and Contributors
Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Council on Education for Public Health
ecoAmerica, Climate for Health
Environmental Health Australia
Food and Drug Administration
NEHA Endowment Fund Donators (see page 7)
NEHA Technical Advisors
Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust
Tennessee Department of Health
Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
EXHIBIT AT THE 2020 AEC

The Exhibition Grand Opening took place on July 9 after the Keynote Address. The exhibit hall was packed with 73 booths this year, with representatives from federal agencies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and private companies representing the broad spectrum of environmental health topics. It was great to see past exhibitors offering information on products and services to make the lives and work of conference attendees easier and more efficient, as well as see a whole array of new exhibitors present at the 2019 AEC. The Student Poster Session consisting of 29 posters was held in the exhibit hall and offered attendees further learning opportunities while perusing all the booths.

A variety of food and beverages were enjoyed during the Exhibition Grand Opening. The exhibit hall was described by attendees and exhibitors as exciting, engaging, and alive. Exhibit hall hours were extended by an hour this year, which helped to accommodate longer conversations and additional networking among previous friends and new contacts.

Located in the center of the exhibit hall was NEHA’s booth—a popular place for people to interact with NEHA staff and board members. Attendees could pick up a free copy of the June 2019 Journal of Environmental Health that included an article about the groundbreaking UNCOVER EH initiative conducted by NEHA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Baylor University. Attendees could also learn more about NEHA’s programs and educational offerings. A drawing for a full registration to the 2020 AEC in New York City was held in the NEHA booth. The drawing winner was Alan Whyman of the Palm Beach County Health Department.

The second day of the Exhibition brought more interaction among conference attendees. The morning coffee break in the exhibit hall was sponsored by GOJO Industries and NYC & Company provided black and white cookies for the afternoon break to promote the 2020 AEC. Both breaks contributed to more traffic in the exhibit hall. Overall, the Exhibition was a great success for networking, learning, and finding new treasures. Thank you to the exhibitors who helped make the event a success.

Don’t Miss the Opportunity to Join Us in New York City!

Online registration for the 2020 AEC exhibition, being held on July 13 and 14, will open in October. Early-bird pricing will be offered until February 28, 2020 (if space is available). Please contact Soni Fink, NEHA sales manager, at sfink@neha.org or (303) 802-2139 for questions regarding exhibition or sponsorship opportunities. Don’t wait to register as over half of the exhibition booths are already sold!
2019 AEC EXHIBITORS

Accela
Advanced Business Software, LLC
Air Chek, Inc.
Allied Powers LLC
American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS)
American Chemistry Council
American Public Health Association
Anua
Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs/National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (AEHAP/EHAC)
Association of Food and Drug Officials
Association of Professional Piercers
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC NCEH/ATSDR)
Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction
Columbia Southern University
Custom Data Processing, Inc.
EcoSure—A Division of Ecolab
Eljen
EMSL Analytical, Inc.
Environmental Information Association (EIA)
E-Z Treat
Food and Drug Administration/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
Georgia Pacific—GP PRO
GLO GERM
GOJO Industries
Hach
HC Info
HealthSpace USA Inc
Hedgerow Software US, Inc.
Hoot Systems, LLC
IAPMO R&T (International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials)
Industrial Test Systems, Inc.
Infiltrator Water Technologies
LaMotte Company
Michigan State University Online Food Safety Program
Micro Essential Laboratory, Inc.
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
National Library of Medicine
National Restaurant Association
NEHA Business and Industry Affiliate
NSF International
Ozark River Portable Sinks
Particles Plus, Inc.
Polylok, Inc.
Pool and Hot Tub Alliance
Prism Analytical Technologies
PrivateWellClass.org
Prometric
Salcor, Inc.
SansWrite
Schneider Laboratories Global, Inc.
Sheen Consulting International, Inc.
Sneezeguard Solutions, Inc.
StateFoodSafety
Sweeps Software
Taylor Technologies, Inc.
Tennessee Department of Health
ThermoWorks
Tyler Technologies, Inc.
Underwriters Laboratories
The University of Findlay
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Indoor Environments Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development
Vector Disease Control International (VDCI)
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Check out more photo booth shots at www.neha.org/aec!
Numerous notable individuals and organizations were recognized at the 2019 AEC. For more information about NEHA’s awards, please visit www.neha.org/about-neha/awards.

Accela/NEHA 2019 AEC Scholarships
Accela Environmental Health and NEHA partnered to award scholarships to 12 professionals to attend the 2019 AEC.

Vincentiu Anghel
Meredith Garman
Adam Hahn
Maia Hanson
Nicholas Iszler
Shannon Jaworski
Matthew Simonovic
Twila Singh
Mark Sproat
Amber Sturdivant
Kelsi Sullivan
Audrey Tran Lam

AEHAP Student Research Competition Winners
Presented by the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP), this award recognizes students who have conducted outstanding research benefiting the field of environmental health.

Summer Corsolini
Nicholas D’Antonio
Thomas Gerding
Justine Marecaux
Darcy Van Deventer

Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award
This award represents the highest honor that the American Academy of Sanitarians bestows upon one of its diplomates.

CAPT Michael M. Welch

Dr. R. Neil Lowry Grant
Given by the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, this award honors and recognizes public health officials who have made outstanding contributions to advance the public’s healthy and safe use of recreational water.

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment

HUD Secretary’s Award for Healthy Homes
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with NEHA, gives this award to recognize excellence in making indoor environments healthier through healthy homes research, education, and program delivery, especially in diverse, low-to-moderate income communities.

City of Rochester, New York, Certificate of Occupancy and Lead Inspection Program Partnership Between the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists in North Carolina and HUD Multifamily Program

NEHA Affiliate Certificates of Merit
Awarded to affiliate members and teams who made exemplary contributions to the profession. Each affiliate selects winners based upon its own criteria for recognition. The nominating affiliate is indicated in parentheses.

Individuals
Tesann Achilles (AZ)
Lcdr Katie Bante (Uniformed Services)
Sandy Bubke (IA)
Tom Butts (CO)
Alice Cadotte (NJ)
Chuck DeJockheere (OH)
Mark DiMenna (NM)
Diane Eastman (CA)
John Galbraith (VA)
Kristen Geary (MO)
Tony Georgeson (MN)
Alysa Gustafson (AK)
Hunter Hubbrig (ND)
Ed Norris (IN)
Carol Pharr (AL)
Stacy Thompson (IL)
Natalie Vandeveld (WI)
Lynette Wheatley (NJ)
Stacy Williamson (AL)
Vivian Zang (MA)

Teams
Fairfax County Health Department: NACCHO Mentorship Program Leadership Team (VA)
Florida Environmental Health Association 2018 Annual Education Meeting Planning Committee (FL)
Iowa Environmental Health Association 2018 Fall Conference Planning Committee (IA)
NEHA Past Presidents Award
Each year, NEHA’s Past Presidents affiliate identifies a hero or group of heroes from the profession of environmental health.
Bryan W. Brooks

NEHA Presidential Citations
This award is given to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to NEHA during the president’s term of office. President Vince Radke presented the following citations.
James Balsamo
Robert Blake
Eric Bradley
Laura Brown
Brian Collins
Robert Custard
Michele DiMaggio
Tambra Dunams
Justin Gerding
Ernest Julian
Jasen Kunz
Glenda Lewis
Adam London
John Marcello
Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau
Marilyn Radke
Michele Samarya-Timm

NSF International Scholarship Program
AEHAP, in partnership with NSF International, offers a paid internship project to students from National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council–accredited programs.
Kate Walters

Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award
This award is given annually to local environmental health jurisdictions that demonstrate unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to their communities.
Minneapolis Health Department

Walter F. Snyder Environmental Health Award
LCDR Katie L. Bante, MPH, REHS/RS
NEHA and NSF International were honored to present LCDR Katie L. Bante, MPH, REHS/RS, with the distinguished Walter F. Snyder Environmental Health Award. The Snyder Award pays homage to NSF International’s cofounder and first executive director who provided outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental and public health.
Working as an environmental health professional since 2008, LCDR Bante has taken leadership roles in multiple initiatives to recognize and improve environmental health disparities. She has provided direct expertise to diverse populations on a wide range of environmental health issues including drinking water, solid waste management, indoor air quality, pest management and vector control, infection control, and occupational health and safety.
Serving as an environmental health officer with the U.S. Coast Guard, LCDR Bante was selected in 2017 to serve as project officer for a multiyear industrial hygiene project assessing hazards and exposure risks associated with aviation corrosion control operations.
She collaborated with teams of senior U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. Coast Guard officers to evaluate corrosion control work at air stations. LCDR Bante’s efforts contributed to identifying and correcting 300 hazardous conditions, implementing safe work practices, mitigating exposure risks, and improving workplace safety for over 800 U.S. Coast Guard members.
LCDR Bante is a current member of NEHA and the Virginia Environmental Health Association, and was a previous member of the Alaska Environmental Health Association. Representatives from each of LCDR Bante’s professional associations, as well as her colleagues in the Uniformed Services, attended the 2019 AEC Awards Ceremony to celebrate her accomplishment. To read more about LCDR Bante’s career, visit www.neha.org/about-neha/awards/walter-f-snyder-award.
Social media was a great way for attendees to share their conference experiences, insights, and thoughts with a wide network of environmental health professionals. Attendees shared comments and photos of the 2019 AEC via Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and the conference app. Attendees were encouraged to post using the hashtags #NEHAAEC and #EHMatters. Below is just a sample of the many posts from the 2019 AEC.

Tuned In With Social Media

Accela @AccelaSoftware
@AccelaSoftware General Manager for Environmental Health, Darryl Booth (@EnvHealthData), awards twelve scholarships to EH professionals at @nehaorg’s annual conference. These young professionals represent the future of EH in our profession. Congratulations! #NEHAAEC #EHMatters

APHA Environmental Health @EH_4_All
Insightful session on “social media strategies for environmental health professionals” at #NEHAAEC. P.S. Fully packed room!

CDC Tracking Network @CDC_EPHTracking
Howdy, partner! Tracking’s headed to Nashville, where we’ll meet up with our friends at @nehaorg #NEHAAEC! Thanks for your work in advancing environmental health & workforce development! #TAW2019 #BeyondData

Climate for Health @Climate4Health
@nehaorg Another standing room only session in the Climate & Health track at the #NEHAAEC, where we are hearing about climate change efforts across the nation, including Salt Lake City where @path2positive is active! #EHMatters #ClimateChangesHealth

Connie Mendel @EnviroHealthKy
Great workshop on messaging! #NEHAAEC #EHMATTERS #WeTrackThat #KYData #TAW2019 @CDC_EPHTracking

Climate for Health @Climate4Health
@nehaorg’s Dr. Justin Gerding shares an overview of the unprecedented UNCOVER EH Initiative at #NEHAAEC. #EHMatters #UNCOVEREH #NEHAinAction

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Climate for Health @Climate4Health
@nehaorg’s Dr. Justin Gerding shares an overview of the unprecedented UNCOVER EH Initiative at #NEHAAEC. #EHMatters #UNCOVEREH #NEHAinAction

2019 AEC Scavenger Hunt

The Connect4App Game was reimagined this year and evolved into the AEC Scavenger Hunt. Attendees logged into the conference app, powered by Zerista, and earned points by scanning QR codes scattered throughout the AEC at events, sessions, and in the exhibit hall, as well as by participating in other various activities. Bonus points were awarded to those who posted pictures of their conference experience on social media. The AEC Scavenger Hunt proved to be wildly popular with well over 300 active participants. Winners were selected in a random drawing. Attendees who scored the highest point totals earned multiple entries into the drawing. Congratulations to the 2019 AEC Scavenger Hunt winner Amy Zagar, senior environmentalist with the Minnesota Environmental Health Association, who won a $50 Amazon gift card. Thank you to everyone who participated—we hope you enjoyed your experience with the reimagined app game! We look forward to hosting it again at the 2020 AEC in New York City.