The 84th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition pivoted to a new format in 2021 as a Three-Part Virtual Series, showcasing the National Environmental Health Association’s (NEHA) commitment to innovation in delivering valuable, interactive, and engaging educational content. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NEHA made the decision in April 2020 to cancel the 2020 AEC, the first time in our history that we did not put on an AEC. For the 2021 AEC, NEHA closely monitored developments of the COVID-19 pandemic and after careful deliberation, the NEHA Board of Directors made the decision in November 2020 to transition the face-to-face 2021 AEC scheduled for July 12–15, 2021, in Spokane, Washington, to a three-part virtual series.

After making the decision, NEHA President Sandra Long stated, “As the health and safety of our members, presenters, exhibitors, attendees, partners, and staff is our highest priority, the NEHA Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to transition the 2021 AEC & Exhibition to a three-part virtual series. While I am disappointed we won’t have the opportunity to see our friends and colleagues in person, I feel certain NEHA has made the right decision. I have full confidence that the NEHA leadership and staff will develop this three-part virtual series to be as valuable, educational, and interactive as past AECs. I look forward to participating in this new learning and conference format.”

Along with a new virtual platform, NEHA made the decision to break up the 2021 AEC into three separate parts that were held on April 20–21, June 1–2, and July 14–15, 2021. In total, 1,100 environmental health practitioners gathered and attended the virtual conference to exchange information and discover new and practical solutions to the most pressing challenges facing the profession. Environmental health professionals have been on the front line of an unprecedented global pandemic. COVID-19 brought with it changes to roles and an increase in responsibilities. The 2021 AEC brought attendees together virtually to share experiences, research, expertise, and best practices to work together for a safer and healthier tomorrow.

During Part 1, John Wilson, founder of CBL Training and Consulting, delivered an energized and timely keynote address. Wilson provided attendees with strategies to maintain their own behavior and the tools to successfully gain compliance and create cooperation amid a world of growing stress and anxiety for the profession and the public they serve. For Part 2, a panel discussion on how policy makers view environmental health was featured. The presenters included Kim Norton, the mayor of Rochester, Minnesota, and Doug Benevento, former deputy administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The presenters provided an insightful discussion on key environmental health issues impacting their constituencies. We wrapped up the 2021 AEC in Part 3 with our Closing Session and Awards Recognition.

The 2021 AEC included over 100 educational sessions, workshops, and networking sessions in a wide variety of environmental health topics. Food safety, emergency preparedness, and climate and health were among the most popular topics. See pages 55–57 for more details regarding the education and training offered at the 2021 AEC.

Exhibitors showcased their products and services in a live virtual format throughout the 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual Series. Attendees and exhibitors connected in real time during the live Exhibit Hall hours. We thank all exhibitors and sponsors for their involvement in the 2021 AEC with a special thank you to the series presenting sponsor, HealthSpace USA Inc. See pages 58–59 for more information about the exhibition and a listing of exhibitors and sponsors.

While the 2021 AEC may have looked drastically different compared with previous AECs, the 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual series nonetheless offered a valuable experience for all those who participated. NEHA thank its attendees, members, board, staff, technical advisors, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors who participated and contributed to the success of the 2021 AEC. The conference could not be possible without you!

We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 2022 AEC in Spokane, Washington, on June 28–July 1, 2022. Check out the promo for next year’s conference on page 67.
EDUCATION & TRAINING

While the format of the 2021 AEC shifted from in-person to virtual, the education provided was of the same caliber that environmental health professionals have come to expect from NEHA. The Call for Abstracts for the 2021 AEC ran from August 24 – October 2, 2020. NEHA highly encouraged individuals that had submitted an abstract for the canceled 2020 AEC to resubmit. As in past years, we sought abstracts that discussed the latest advancements in environmental health in both the private and public sectors. NEHA reopened the Call for Abstracts after the decision was made to transition the 2021 AEC to a virtual event. The second Call for Abstracts ran from November 16 – December 7, 2020. In the end, a total of 226 abstracts were submitted for the 2021 AEC.

Once the Call for Abstracts closed, all submitted abstracts were reviewed by the NEHA technical advisors (TAs) in late fall 2020. The TAs were asked to rate the abstracts in regard to quality, relevance, impact, and originality. The agenda for the conference educational sessions, taking into account that the 2021 AEC had been divided into three parts, was put together using the TA reviews of the abstracts. NEHA also identified topic areas of relevance that were not represented by the submitted abstracts and reached out to experts in those areas to fill any holes in the educational program.

We thank the TAs for their contributions to this year’s educational program and their willingness to share their expertise and time in creating an educational program that was current and relevant to environmental health professionals. Please see page 53 for a full listing of the 2020–2021 NEHA TAs.

With the agenda set, the next step was to make sure that we supported all of our speakers in the transition from presenting in-person to virtually. For each part, NEHA offered a 1-hour speaker training session that was facilitated virtually by Pathable, the vendor of our virtual platform. These trainings were offered in real time and were recorded for viewing after the fact. We also conducted virtual training for session moderators, tech leads, and exhibitors. Finally, we conducted dress rehearsals for all of the featured presentations, including the Keynote Address, Opening Panel, and Closing Session. While most of their past experience in presenting has been in front of an audience, our speakers stepped up admirably in the virtual platform and tackled the unfamiliar experience of presenting to a large audience via their computers (and from their homes in many cases).

In total, the 2021 AEC offered 111 sessions in 10 different environmental health tracks over the three-part virtual series. The 2021 AEC featured 221 presenters from federal, state, local, private, nongovernmental organization, and academia sectors. The presenters came from all across the U.S., as well as from other countries across the globe. We also hosted a virtual poster hall during each part that featured a total of 32 posters. Poster presenters were able to engage and interact with attendees in real time across the virtual platform. Research topics ranged from the effect of COVID-19 on body art, water quality, special events in a postpandemic world, and lead exposure.

The Three Parts

Each part of the 2021 AEC featured different environmental health tracks and featured speakers and session.

Part 1

Part 1 took place on April 20–21, 2021, and featured the following tracks:

- Opening Keynote
- Environmental Justice & Children’s Environmental Health
- Food Safety
- General Environmental Health
- Infectious & Vectorborne Diseases
- Uniformed Services
- Workforce & Leadership

John Wilson delivered the keynote address on April 20 to over 600 attendees. Wilson is the founder of CBL Training and Consulting. He has served as a sergeant in a major California law enforcement agency where he led a crisis intervention training unit and is a U.S. Army veteran. His presentation focused on communication tools environmental health professionals can use to successfully gain compliance or create cooperation when facing difficult situations.

Food Safety was a highly attended track during Part 1. The four highest attended sessions, which had over 1,200 combined participants, included “EHS-Net Conducting Environmental Assessments: An Essential Tool for Foodborne Outbreak Investigations;” “NCEH: Improving Restaurant Food Safety Through Innovative, Practice-Base Research With the Environmental Health Specialists Network;” “Diverting Food Waste From Commercial Food Establishments: Two Success Stories From Central Oregon;” and “Automation & Technology Trends in Foodservice Equipment.”

Part 2

Part 2 took place on June 1–2, 2021, and featured the following tracks:

- Opening Panel
- Climate & Health
- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Healthy Communities
- Water Quality
- Workforce & Leadership
Part 2 opened on June 1 with a panel discussion on “Views of Environmental Health by Policy Makers.” The discussion featured Kim Norton, the mayor of Rochester, Minnesota, Doug Benevento, former deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Doug Farquhar, director of Government Affairs at NEHA.

Part 2 highlighted educational sessions that covered indoor air quality, drinking water systems contamination, the latest research on Legionella, and rebuilding environmental health capacity in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico after the 2017 hurricanes.

Part 3
Part 3 took place on July 14–15, 2021, and featured the following tracks:
- Closing Session and Award Recognition
- Climate & Health
- Data & Technology
- Emerging Topics
- Food Safety
- General Environmental Health
- Water Quality
- Workforce & Leadership

Part 3 included the NEHA Town Hall Assembly on July 14. The Town Hall was an opportunity for attendees to hear about the state of the association and have their questions answered by NEHA staff and board members. The Town Hall has also traditionally included presentations from candidates for second vice-president of NEHA. This year two candidates, Michele DiMaggio and Larry Ramdin, submitted recorded speeches that were played during the Town Hall.

Popular sessions during Part 3 focused on workforce development and food safety. These popular sessions included “EH Workforce Needs, Now and in the Future;” “FDA Retail Food Grant Funding Improves Efficiency at the Oakland City–County Health Department;” and “The Collaborative: A Coordinated and Concentrated Approach to Reducing Foodborne Illness.”

The 2021 AEC concluded on July 15 with the Closing Session and Awards Recognition. The session, “From Here to There,” was hosted by NEHA First Vice-President Dr. D. Gary Brown. NEHA President Sandra Long and President-Elect Roy Kroeger discussed how environmental health professionals have been on the front line of a devastating pandemic and how together we are creating a safer tomorrow. The session also honored Long for her service as NEHA president and featured the “passing of the gavel” and start of Kroeger’s 2021–2022 presidency.

Our most prestigious award recipients addressed the virtual crowd during the awards recognition part of the session. The recognitions kicked off with the first Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr. Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Award winner, Aqualia (Shauna) Nelson. In her speech, Nelson reminded us to lead the charge and strive to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. Stan Hazan from NSF International presented the Walter F. Snyder Award to Kevin Smith of the Food and Drug Administration. This year marked the 50th anniversary of NSF International and NEHA presenting the Snyder Award.

Dr. Adam London, a NEHA past president, gave out two awards. The first was the NEHA Past Presidents Award given to NEHA Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack. Dr. London also presented NEHA’s highest honor, the Walter S. Mangold Award, to Vincent J. Radke. Radke gave a speech acknowledging the history of this important award and the esteemed recipients who came before him. The closing session ended with a moment of silence lead by Dr. Brown.

A Safer and Healthier Tomorrow
The NEHA 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual Series proved that with environmental health professionals coming together, we can have a safer and healthier tomorrow.

We thank all of the presenters for sharing their knowledge and expertise with over 1,100 attendees throughout the 2021 AEC. The presentations provided attendees with a wealth of information, lessons learned, and ideas to take back to their respective workplaces. We appreciate the contributions of the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Affiliate and the National Center for Environmental Health within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for putting together educational tracks for the 2021 AEC. Finally, we appreciate the contributions of all of the moderators and tech leads who made the virtual sessions run smoothly.

NEHA 2022 AEC
While the 2021 AEC was wrapped up just a few months ago, work is already underway for the 2022 AEC. The 2022 AEC will take place June 28–July 1, 2022, in Spokane, Washington. Preconference workshops will be held on June 26–28. The Call for Abstracts is open from August 23–September 28, 2021. As in previous years, we seek abstracts that highlight the latest advances in environmental health from all different sectors. Visit www.neha.org/aec/abstracts for abstract submission guidelines and to submit your abstract. 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 100 sessions within 10 tracks and 34 disciplines.

1. Climate & Health
   » Climate Change
2. Data & Technology
   » Environmental Health Tracking & Informatics
   » Technology & Environmental Health
3. Emergency Preparedness
   » Emergency Preparedness & Response
4. Food Safety
   » Cannabis
   » Food Safety & Defense
   » Home Restaurants
5. General Environmental Health
   » Air Quality
   » Body Art
   » Emerging Environmental Health Issues
   » Food Waste
   » General Environmental Health
   » Global Environmental Health
   » Hazardous & Toxic Materials
   » Solid Waste
   » Sustainability
6. Healthy Communities
   » EH Health Impact Assessment
   » Healthy Homes & Communities
   » Land Use Planning & Design
   » Lead
   » Schools & Institutions
7. Infectious & Vectorborne Diseases
   » Pathogens & Outbreaks
   » Vector Control & Zoonotic Diseases
8. Special Populations
   » Children’s Environmental Health
   » Environmental Justice
   » Uniformed Services
9. Water Quality
   » Onsite Wastewater
   » Premise Plumbing
   » Private Drinking Water
   » Recreational Water (including shorelines)
   » Water Quality
   » Water Reuse
10. Workforce & Leadership
    » Leadership/Management/Enumeration
    » Student & Young Professional Career Development

Preconference Courses & Workshops

More than 100 attendees enhanced their knowledge and their 2021 AEC virtual experience with one of several preconference offerings held during Parts 1 and 3.

NEHA continued to offer one of the most successful preconference workshops from previous years, the Affiliate Leadership Workshop. Nearly 40 affiliate leaders gathered at this year’s workshop to learn tips and resources for running successful associations, specifically around in-person and virtual events.

NEHA once again partnered with ecoAmerica’s Climate for Health to combat the growing concern of climate change with a highly successful half-day Ambassador Training offered prior to Part 1. Over 30 participants were equipped with knowledge, hands-on experience, and resources to speak and act confidently on climate change and solutions.

Two new preconference workshops were offered during Part 3 of the 2021 AEC. The Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certificate Program Workshop explored the environmental and health risks and social disparities associated with contaminated land properties, key players in land reuse planning and policy, and redevelopment techniques to improve community health. NEHA’s Private Water Network held the Effective Education and Outreach for Private Drinking Water Systems Workshop. The workshop featured a combination of presentations and interactive sessions on innovative implementation, challenges, best practices, and evaluation of effective education and outreach strategies for private wells and other small drinking water systems.

ON-DEMAND ACCESS

The 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual Series was packed with over 100 educational sessions that are now available on-demand. Registered attendees can rewatch favorite sessions, view sessions that were missed, or catch up on any of the three parts. All registered attendees have exclusive on-demand access to the recorded sessions from Parts 1, 2, and 3.

If you did not register for the 2021 AEC, you can now purchase access to all on-demand content through the NEHA Online Store. This option is to provide early access to the sessions for those wanting it. Please note that all NEHA members will have access to the recordings beginning in early 2022 and refunds will not be issued to members that purchase the on-demand access.

To learn more about accessing the on-demand sessions for both registered attendees and those wanting to purchase access, visit www.neha.org/2021-aec.
The Exhibit Hall at the 2021 AEC, sponsored by NSF International, was a virtual platform that enabled attendees to visit exhibitor booths and exhibitors during each part of the 2021 AEC. We were excited to have 23 different organizations covering a broad spectrum of environmental health—from software companies and nonprofit organizations to food safety product companies, federal agencies, and more.

The Exhibit Hall was open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day on April 20–21, June 1–2, and July 14–15. Each day also offered live Exhibit Hall times from 9–10 a.m., 12–1 p.m., and 3–4 p.m., which provided attendees with the opportunity to interact with exhibitors live via their booths. These dedicated hours gave attendees the time to learn and ask questions about products and services offered by the exhibitors to make them more effective and knowledgeable in their positions. The 23 exhibiting organizations had representatives enthusiastically waiting for attendees to interact live via their booths. It was great to see everyone!

Along with the live Exhibit Hall hours, the virtual booths offered exhibitors various different features to share their products, services, and information. The main landing page for each exhibitor booth included a section to provide background information about the organization, their website address, other relevant links, and tags to indicate the topics or areas of environmental health they focus on. The virtual booth had a chat window, a tab to list staff who were in attendance, and a tab to upload files such as brochures and flyers. The virtual booth also included a polls tab where exhibitors could post questions for attendees to provide their feedback.

The virtual component of the Exhibit Hall provided analytics that gave exhibitors a complete picture of their attendee engagement for each part of the 2021 AEC. Overall, the Exhibit Hall was well attended.
encouraged to take photos utilizing props and the GIF feature that added movement to the photo. A photo montage of the 2021 AEC Virtual Photo Booth was created and can be viewed at www.neha.org/2021-aec.

We thank HealthSpace USA Inc for their support of the NEHA 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual Series as a Presenting Sponsor. We also thank all of the exhibitors and sponsors who participated in and supported the 2021 AEC. NEHA is able to hold this premier event each year because of your generous support and dedication.

2021 AEC EXHIBITORS

- Accela
- American Public Health Association
- Business and Industry Affiliate
- Environmental Information Association
- Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Analytics and Outreach
- Groveware Technologies Inc.
- HealthSpace USA Inc
- Hedgerow Software
- Hydrosense
- Inspect2GO Environmental Health Software
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
- NSF International
- Ozark River Manufacturing Co.
- Pool & Hot Tub Alliance
- Private Water Network
- Project Firstline
- Sanipur US LLC
- ServSafe/National Restaurant Association
- Sweeps Software, Inc.
- ThermoWorks
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development

2021 AEC SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

We appreciate the following sponsors, organizations, and individuals who helped make the 2021 AEC possible!

Diamond Presenting Sponsor
HealthSpace USA Inc

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Sweeps Software, Inc.
ThermoWorks

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Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
ecoAmerica, Climate for Health
Food and Drug Administration
National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council
NEHA Endowment Fund Donators (see page 7)
NEHA Technical Advisors (see page 53)
Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development

DON’T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON!

The 2022 AEC is returning to an in-person event! Online registration for the 2022 AEC exhibition opens October 1, 2021. Exhibiting at the 2022 AEC is an invaluable opportunity to meet with environmental health professionals from around the globe. By exhibiting, you can:

- Generate leads
- Build brand awareness
- Increase revenue

Early-bird pricing will be offered until February 15, 2022 (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. Learn more at www.neha.org/aec/exhibition.
NEHA acknowledged the recipients of our 2021 awards, scholarships, and certificates during the final part of the 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual Series. This year, NEHA was proud to bestow 10 national awards representing outstanding individuals, programs, and groups throughout the country. “Awards and recognition are important career mile markers,” reflected NEHA Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack. “Let us collectively take a moment during this period of universal COVID-19 exhaustion to extend a heartfelt congratulations to each of the awardees.”

The challenges that we have faced over the past year and a half make the accomplishments of our award recipients even more extraordinary. From students excelling during unparalleled times and new leaders working on diversity efforts to some of the most recognized names in our professional community, this year’s recipients illustrate the dedication and selflessness of those in our field. The following people were honored with awards in 2021.

**AEHAP Student Research Competition Winners**

Sydney Bohall,  
*West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

Rowan Carroll,  
*Illinois State University*

Lexi Kyro,  
*Montana State University*

Gabriela Ornelas,  
*Illinois State University*

Angela Spugnardi,  
*Eastern Kentucky University*

Each year the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) invites undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)-accredited program to submit original research projects. Winning entries receive $1,000 and travel stipends to present their projects at the AEC.

**Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr. Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Award**

Aqualia (Shauna) Nelson,  
*MA, REHS/RS*

NEHA presented the first annual Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr. Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Award to Aqualia (Shauna) Nelson. The Walker Diversity Award was introduced in 2020 to recognize an individual or group who has made significant achievements in the development or enhancement of a more culturally diverse, inclusive, and competent environment.

Nelson serves as a consumer safety officer for the Food and Drug Administration where she conducts activities to regulate the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products. As an REHS/RS, she works to cultivate healthier relationships between humans and the environment by providing direction on issues impacting air quality and pollution, healthy homes, water and food safety, hazardous waste management, and environmental justice.

Throughout her career, Nelson has been an avid champion for the promotion of environmental stewardship to create healthy platforms inclusive to all. From conducting investigations into environmental and public health hazards and natural disasters in diverse communities to serving on environmental and public health task forces addressing ways of lessening health disparities in under resourced or racial–ethnic minority communities, she continuously advocates for positive change.

Nelson’s commitment to diversity extends beyond her work life and stretches into the community she serves. She lends her time as an ally for underrepresented groups, advocating to amplify marginalized voices on issues impacting their livelihood. Furthering her commitment to serve, Nelson has completed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate Program from the University of South Florida.

Her dedication to public service is embodied through a level of care and genuine empathy for others, which is showcased in all she does. Nelson believes the best work relationships are reflective of people from diverse backgrounds who value differences, support mutual respect, embrace inclusivity, and provide opportunities for all to thrive to reach their maximum potential.

**Dr. R. Neil Lowry Grant**

North Richland Hills, Texas  

Sponsored by the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA), this $5,000 grant honors a public health official or department who has made outstanding contributions to advance the public health and safe use of recreational water in pools, spas, and water parks. The grant is given in honor of Dr. R. Neil Lowry, a long-time member of PHTA. The city of North Richland Hills (NRH) provides education and community outreach on water safety, promotes protective engineering, and delivers effective enforcement of local ordinances through the NRH 365 Water Safety 365 Drowning Prevention Program. To learn more, visit www.nrhws365.com.

**NEHA/AAS Scholarship**

Graham Siegel,  
*Western Carolina University*

Samson Strickland,  
*East Carolina University*

Saba Wube,  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Each year NEHA and our partner organization, the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS), provide scholarships for three deserving
students. NEHA and AAS began the scholarship program 25 years ago out of a shared desire to support well-educated and well-prepared environmental health students committed to working as sanitarians/environmental health professionals and contributing to the public health of their communities. In 2020, the boards of both organizations voted to name one of the undergraduate scholarships to honor Dr. Sheila Davidson Pressley. In 2021, the second undergraduate scholarship was named in honor of Dr. Carolyn Hester Harvey. Both of these esteemed individuals served as champions for students and environmental health academics throughout their impressive careers.

NEHA Affiliate Certificates of Merit
Certificates of Merit are awarded to members of NEHA-affiliated organizations. Each affiliate selects individual and team winners based upon its criteria for recognition. The certificates are an opportunity for local affiliates to be recognized on national level. The 2021 recipients are:

**Individuals**
- Karen Contador, Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
- Brian Gutierrez and Derreck Webb, New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Patrick Lindsey, Alabama Environmental Health Association
- Mark Peloquin, Minnesota Environmental Health Association
- Michael Sukup, Iowa Environmental Health Association

**Teams**
- Fall Conference Committee, Iowa Environmental Health Association
- G & L Laboratories, Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
- Legislative Committee, Montana Environmental Health Association
- Workforce Development Committee, Connecticut Environment Health Association

NEHA Past Presidents Award

David Dyjack, DrPH, CIH, National Environmental Health Association
The NEHA Past Presidents Affiliate comes together annually to recognize an environmental health champion with a distinguished award. Since May 2015, Dr. David Dyjack has led NEHA as its executive director. When Dr. Dyjack came aboard membership was stagnating and the finances of the association were on shaky ground.

Under Dr. Dyjack, membership in NEHA has grown from approximately 3,600 in 2015 to just over 6,500. The budget in 2015 was approximately $3 million. The current budget is approximately $10 million and NEHA is on a sound financial footing. NEHA’s social media engagement back in 2015 was minimal. Today that engagement reaches across many platforms (e.g., LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) and has gained many followers.

Collaboration and communication with federal partners, NEHA affiliates, industry, and other associations have improved under the leadership of Dr. Dyjack. Before he arrived to take the helm of NEHA, the association had no presence in Washington, DC. Today eight NEHA staff members are working in Washington, DC, to improve environmental health capability and build capacity.

In the 2020 NEHA Annual Report, Dr. Dyjack stated, “You will observe abundant evidence of our organizational rebirth during what can best be summarized as an otherwise awful year framed by the COVID-19 pandemic.” Many environmental health professionals found it difficult to obtain continuing education during the pandemic. In response, NEHA offered free continuing education to environmental health professionals, members and nonmembers alike. Under Dr. Dyjack, NEHA’s credentialing has stayed strong with 450 new credentialed professionals and 2,250 environmental health professionals renewing their credentials in 2020.

This year’s recipient of the NEHA Past Presidents Award has worked tirelessly to promote NEHA and the environmental health professional. The NEHA past presidents salute this year’s award recipient, Dr. David Dyjack.

NEHA Presidential Citations

Certificates are given to those who have made exemplary impacts on the association during the NEHA president’s term of office. President Sandra Long conferred Presidential Citations to the following individuals and groups:

- Jonna Ashley
- Renee Clark
- Alicia Collins
- Brian Collins
- Kristie Denbrock
- Dr. Amer El-Ahraf
- Santiago Ezcurra
- Soni Fink
- Dr. Carolyn Hester Harvey
- Roy Kroeger
- Angelica Ledezma
- Dustin Long
- NEHA Staff
- NEHA Technical Advisors
- Michael Newman
- Dr. Priscilla Oliver
- Charles Powell
- Vince Radke
- Dr. Manjit Randhawa
- Kristen Ruby-Cisneros
- Gail Vail

NSF International Scholar

Reggie Eggen, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
AEHAP, in partnership with NSF International, offers a $3,500 internship to one undergraduate student from an EHAC-accredited program. The selected student completes a 10-week research project targeting an issue of concern selected by NSF International.
Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award

Washoe County Health District

This prominent award is given annually to local environmental health jurisdictions that demonstrate unsurpassed achievement in providing food protection services to their communities. It is named for one of the country’s most renowned health officers and educators, Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine. The Crumbine Award encourages innovative programs and methods that reduce or eliminate foodborne illnesses, recognizes the importance of food protection at the local level, and stimulates public awareness in food service sanitation.

The Washoe County Health District staff.

The 2021 winner, Washoe County Health District, demonstrated clear evidence of program improvement and public health interventions, achievements in solving impactful public health-centered challenges, and a strong program focus on outcomes in addition to outputs. The selection committee praised the district for their engagement with industry and solid relationships with the community. The Washoe County Health District has jurisdiction over all public health matters in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County through the policy making Washoe County District Board of Health.

The Crumbine Award is supported by the Conference for Food Protection, in cooperation with the American Academy of Sanitarians, American Public Health Association, Association of Food and Drug Officials, Food Marketing Institute, Foodservice Packaging Institute, International Association for Food Protection, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Environmental Health Association, National Restaurant Association, NSF International, and UL, LLC.

Walter F. Snyder Environmental Health Award

Kevin Smith

The Snyder Award honors NSF International’s cofounder and first executive director, Walter F. Snyder, who provided outstanding contributions to environmental and public health advancement. This year marks the 50th anniversary of NEHA’s partnership with NSF International to recognize public health professionals who protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the environment we share with this important award.

The 2021 recipient is Kevin Smith, senior advisor for food safety at the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). Smith has dedicated his career of more than 30 years to safeguarding human health and safety.

Smith has played an essential role in the development, delivery, and advancement of national standards that guide regulatory program implementation and set the bar for the design and performance of equipment related to food protection and environmental health. In his current role at FDA, Smith advises leadership on strategic initiatives and program development that led nationwide efforts to combat food waste, promote food recovery, and protect food from contamination during transport. He has provided consulting to programs and initiatives that seek to reduce food waste while addressing food insecurity and creating jobs. His collaboration with experts in food safety, environmental engineering, epidemiology, laboratory analysis, and public health has helped to create a more integrated food safety system and promote comprehensive food safety reform.

Smith has served in several leadership positions at FDA, including director of the Retail Food Protection Staff, acting director for the Division of Cooperative Programs, and consumer safety officer on the Retail Food Protection Team at CFSAN. Before joining FDA in 2001, he was a standards development program manager at NSF International, working on standards for a range of products including food equipment, swimming pool equipment, and wastewater and stormwater treatment technologies. He got his start in public health as a sanitarian with the Ulster County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health.

“Kevin is known across the food safety industry for his collaborative nature, deep experience in standards development, and
commitment to the broader picture. He always takes the time to thoroughly consider different viewpoints while being thoughtful, flexible, and respectful,” said Dr. David Dyjack, NEHA executive director. “His abilities to engage others and enact change have been invaluable in building consensus when creating important national standards—many of which are now core to the work of food safety professionals and organizations throughout the nation.”

Walter S. Mangold Award

Vincent J. Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, CPH, DLAAS

The 2021 Walter S. Mangold Award was presented to Vincent J. Radke. The Mangold Award recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental health professionals. It is the highest distinction that NEHA can grant one of its members.

In keeping with the legacy of Walter S. Mangold, Radke’s impressive career is an example of both professionalism and service. Radke served as president of NEHA from 2018–2019. He was nominated for the Mangold Award by Dr. Adam London, current president of the NEHA Past Presidents Affiliate. In his nomination letter, Dr. London wrote, “He is my friend to be sure, but even as a seasoned environmental health professional, I learned so much from him about the art and craft of being a better leader and a better person.”

From 2001–2018, Radke was a sanitarian for the Environmental Health Services Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where he helped lead collaborative food safety activities, including the Environmental Health Specialists Network within CDC at the National Center for Environmental Health and the National Center for Infectious Diseases. In 2010, Radke became CDC advisor to the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) Board of Directors. In this position, he advised industry, academic, consumer, federal, state, and local representatives on food safety policies, FDA Food Code issues, and committee and council reports submitted to the CFP Board of Directors. He also served as CDC advisor to CFP’s Council I until he retired from CDC in October 2018. In a letter to the Mangold Award Nomination Committee, John Marcello, special assistant to the director within the FDA Office of State Cooperative Programs, shared that Radke’s “voice resonates to this day and is a major influence in changing the culture of regulatory food protection programs from regulatory programs with a public health component to public health programs with a regulatory component.”

Radke was involved in many domestic and international emergency responses to natural and man-made disasters. Some of these responses included an earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, Ebola in West Africa, Zika virus in the U.S. and Caribbean, Rocky Mountain spotted fever in the Western U.S., an earthquake in Haiti, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, multiple hurricanes in the U.S. and Caribbean, and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan. He provided environmental health information, surveillance, risk assessment, and analysis, including recovery information for emergency response staff and the populations impacted by these disasters.

As a surveillance and assessment officer with the U.S. Peace Corps and the World Health Organization (WHO), Radke worked with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, tribal chiefs and schools, health clinics, and church staff to combat smallpox and establish cholera and tuberculosis immunization programs. WHO requested Radke to assist with the eradication of smallpox in Bangladesh and to document that smallpox had been eliminated in Kenya. In 1976 he was awarded the Order of the Bifurcated Needle by the WHO Director-General for his efforts in this area. WHO declared smallpox eradicated in 1980.

Presently, Radke continues his work in environmental health. He consults with the Association of Food and Drug Officials on food safety issues. He continues to be a guest lecturer on environmental health issues at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. During 2020–2021, Radke conducted pro bono consulting regarding the COVID-19 pandemic with certain national companies and local restaurants in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mangold Award Nomination Committee Chair CAPT Michael E. Herring stated, “The Mangold Award Committee was greatly impressed with the extraordinary breadth of Vince Radke’s career and accomplishments in the field of environmental health. From serving in vital roles for the U.S. Peace Corps and WHO that resulted in the eradication of smallpox from the planet to his extensive career and achievements working in local, state, federal, and international environmental health programs, Vince’s career of more than 50 years has been exceptional in every way. His leadership and service have advanced the mission of NEHA, along with numerous other important public health and environmental health agencies and organizations. Vince Radke is a most deserving recipient of the 2021 Walter S. Mangold Award.”

Did You Know?

NEHA offers several different awards that recognize and honor individuals and teams for their achievements and successes in environmental health and in forwarding the profession. In a world where environmental health professionals are unsung heroes, our awards are an opportunity to spotlight and honor your accomplishments. To learn more about the awards offered, the application periods, and past award honorees, please visit www.neha.org/awards.