

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Priscilla Oliver, PhD

As youth, we are introduced to awards and honors early. Perfect attendance, the honor roll, the spelling bee, athletics, May Day, the science fair, music recitals, the bands, art displays, etc. get us ready for expressing our talents, excellence, competition, and obtaining rewards. Please get the youth to get involved and continue with this busy work for it builds character and helps us on our way to become productive adults. The socialization is important and it is the beginning of good working relationships in school, work, the profession, church, family, and in our communities. I thank my mother and teachers for making sure that I was involved in all of these activities as I grew up and developed. I also thank my coworkers and colleagues for continually working with and supporting me over the years.

All professions have some system of awards and honors that reward its members. "It is a poor dog that does not wag its own tail," said Little Richard. We, too, in environmental health have to wag our tail. Thus, there is a need for awards and they are important. It was Peter Drucker, "the founder of modern management," who wrote that the following motivates people: achievement, responsibility, and recognition. I submit that one feeds the other and keeps the cycle of work going. People need to have work, to achieve, be responsible, and be recognized in order to thrive and be pleased with work.

Nationally, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is no different. We have a system of awards that are presented at our Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition and at the annual affiliate meet-

Awards and Honors: Why Are They Important?

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ings. It has been a pleasure to travel to affiliate meetings, speak and assist with recognizing award winners, and learn about the works and the honors that exist among our professionals. The list of awards and scholarships are expansive and growing. Thanks to all of the leaders, contributors, awardees, and supporters for the inspiration that you provide in this process. Yes, may it never end.

We need the awards and honors in our profession to motivate and inspire others. Awards help us to grow and improve the field of environmental health. It is good that we make these announcements in large meetings so others can see what is being achieved. Our individual self-worth is improved and we feel good about our work and the work of others. Individuals become very proud and passionate about the marketing in the field of environmental health. Awards and honors are history making activities. They allow us to be remembered through the perils of time and from generation to generation. The plaques and scrolls of winners are popular. Role models are made and mentoring and networking begin among

award winners and the want to be award winners. A road map to success is provided in the lives and accomplishments of award winners. Good and long-lasting professional relationships may continue through time. Such activities can perk up the workday, boost confidences, provide sparks for the career, and lead to greater works and greatness.

The benefits of obtaining an award or honor are that you get the publicity from winning. Written announcements with photos and a tangible plaque, certificate, statue, or check may be presented for all to see. Family, friends, coworkers, and competitors get to witness or find out about the award. You have a chance to thank the selection committee and others that attend the recognition ceremony. You have an audience and people that are listening to hear about you and what you have to say. People will want to hear your story and reaction. Good speaking abilities are developed.

Award winners and honorees create organizational improvements and new positions, inspire innovation and creativity, and can improve teamwork. There are many team awards. Awards also provide a good pool of applicants for other positions such as experts and leaders. Yes, the way to a new or better job may be through an award or honor. There are limitless possibilities.

Many of us have much to say and do but we are holding back for whatever reason. Perhaps applying for an award will help you express yourself. I want to encourage you now to join NEHA and apply now for or nominate qualified applicants for the environmental health awards. Membership matters for this reason.

The many NEHA awards are listed on the website at www.neha.org/about-neha/awards. They are, to name a few: A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award, Walter F. Snyder Award from NSF International and NEHA, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes, Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award, Walter S. Mangold Award, Joe Beck Educational Contribution Award, NEHA Past Presidents Award, Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award from the American Academy of Sanitarians, NEHA Affiliate Certificates of Merit, etc.

Please see the NEHA website for a description, criteria, and list of previous winners.

Take time to be recognized and to recognize others. Please join and check with your affiliates for a list of awards and apply for or nominate qualified applicants for environmental health awards. It is time to celebrate each other and our profession.

Finally, check around and apply for any other appropriate awards, scholarships, honors, and nominate qualified applicants. Now, do not get discouraged if you fail to win an award. Everyone cannot win the same award, honor, or scholarship at the same time. Just keep applying until your turn comes around and is reached. We need you as a state, office, group, city, county, and

individual to apply for awards in NEHA, the affiliates, and the profession. We need your talents and progress.

Continue to do the very fine work you are doing for our planet. The award-winning work contributes to the campaign: **Make America Green Again**. Let us wag our own tail, celebrate, market ourselves, and become the best that we can be in environmental health. A special thank you is extended to our sponsors and donors of awards, honors, and scholarships in environmental health. 🐾

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Did You Know?

NEHA's membership structure includes five different membership categories—Professional, Emerging Professional, Retired Professional, International, and Life. Members within these categories receive the electronic version of the *Journal*. Members based in the U.S. also have the option to purchase a print subscription of the *Journal* for \$35. Learn more at www.neha.org/membership-communities/join.

SUPPORT THE NEHA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

The NEHA Endowment Foundation was established to enable NEHA to do more for the environmental health profession than its annual budget might allow. Special projects and programs supported by the foundation will be carried out for the sole purpose of advancing the profession and its practitioners.

Individuals who have contributed to the foundation are listed below by club category. These listings are based on what people have actually donated to the foundation—not what they have pledged. Names will be published under the appropriate category for 1 year; additional contributions will move individuals to a different category in the following year(s). For each of the categories, there are a number of ways NEHA recognizes and thanks contributors to the foundation. If you are interested in contributing to the Endowment Foundation, please call NEHA at (303) 756-9090. You can also donate online at www.neha.org/about-neha/donate.

Thank you.

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Name submitted in drawing for a free 1-year NEHA membership and name in the Journal for 1 year.

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Special invitation to the AEC President's Reception and name in the Journal for 1 year.

Vince Radke