

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

NEHA Board Member Receives John J. Guzewich Award



The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is pleased to announce that Michele DiMaggio, NEHA Region 2 vice-president, was selected as the recipient of the 2022 John J. Guzewich Environmental Public Health Award. DiMaggio was nominated by Vince Radke, who stated on the nomination application that “Michele DiMaggio is the embodiment of what Jack Guzewich worked toward and

accomplished in his professional life to improve food safety and prevent foodborne illness.”

DiMaggio holds a bachelor's degree in biological science from California State University East Bay and is a California Registered Environmental Health Specialist. She has worked at the national level on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Board of Scientific Counselors Food Safety Modernization Act Surveillance Work Group during the past 4 years. She has also participated in the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response committee working on the third edition of the *Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response*.

DiMaggio's experience is extensive, ranging from being a subject matter expert on the Training and Certification and Surveillance, Response, and Post-Response work groups of the Partnership for Food Protection; participating on the Advisory Council for Training Compilation and Certification Program for Environmental Assessments of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks at the Colorado Integrated

Food Safety Center of Excellence; and being a technical advisor and instructor for food safety and shelter assessment at the California Department of Public Health. DiMaggio also previously taught the Epi-Ready Foodborne Illness Response course for NEHA.

Since August 2013, DiMaggio has been a supervising environmental health specialist within the Environmental Health Division at the Contra Costa County Health Services Department. She shares management responsibility for the retail food safety program and is also an associate supervisor for the division's Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response and Emergency Response Team. She has coordinated and conducted numerous foodborne illness outbreaks investigations in conjunction with the Public Health Communicable Disease and Laboratory Divisions.

The award is named for John J. Guzewich who retired from the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition within the Food and Drug Administration in 2011. He was senior advisor for environmental health in the Office of Food Defense, Communication, and Emergency Response. Guzewich worked on a number of special projects to enhance relationships with federal, state, and local government partners responsible for food safety. The award aims to recognize the role of individuals and local, state, tribal, and territorial environmental public health departments in protecting their communities and the national food safety system from foodborne illness, as well as to encourage innovative programs and best practices to prevent the occurrence of foodborne illnesses.

The award was presented at the 2022 Integrated Foodborne Outbreak Response and Management (InFORM) Conference in April. 🌍

People on the Move is designed to keep NEHA members informed about what their peers in environmental health are up to. If you or someone you know has received a promotion, changed careers, or earned a special recognition in the profession, please notify Kristen Ruby-Cisneros at kruby@neha.org. It is our pleasure to announce the achievements and new directions of our members. This feature will run when we have material to print—so be sure to send in your announcements!



Employers increasingly require a professional credential to verify that you are qualified and trained to perform your job duties. Credentials improve the visibility and credibility of our profession and they can result in raises or promotions for the holder. For 80 years, NEHA has fostered dedication, competency, and capability through professional credentialing. We provide a path to those who want to challenge themselves and keep learning every day. Earning a credential is a personal commitment to excellence and achievement. Learn more at neha.org/professional-development/credentials.



A credential today can improve all your tomorrows.

