

NEHA NEWS

Note of Thanks to Departing Board Member

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is fortunate to have members who are willing to volunteer their time and energy to NEHA through positions within its Board of Directors and on committees and work groups, as well as serve as subject matter experts, trainers, and peer reviewers. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and efforts of one member of the NEHA Board of Directors on the occasion of her departure from the board: Immediate Past-President Dr. Priscilla Oliver.



Immediate Past-President Priscilla Oliver, PhD, leaves the NEHA Board of Directors after 5 years of faithful and dedicated service. She will be remembered for the coined phrase, “We Are One NEHA.” She undertook an expanded recruitment approach of diverse and comprehensive technical advisors for NEHA who covered existing and developing areas of environmental health top-

ics. These experts continue to make contributions to NEHA. She brought us together as “One NEHA” during tumultuous times and in a time of expanded growth within the organization. Dr. Oliver created the Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr. Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Award with the first recipient named this year.

Dr. Oliver guided NEHA through the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflicts within our society that stemmed from incidents of injustice and inequity in 2020. The articles and statements in the *Journal of Environmental Health* on leadership, environmental health services, and conflict provided guidance to environmental health professionals, as well as to NEHA staff and board members. She strongly supported seeking government funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was most productive in helping NEHA survive and thrive.

As NEHA president, Dr. Oliver was a strong proponent of student activities and programs. She spoke on behalf of environmental health to practitioners, student groups, and administrators in Jamaica and across the country. She created in memoriam the Dr. Sheila Davidson Pressley Scholarship and the Dr. Carolyn Hester Harvey Scholarship for deserving environmental health students. Dr. Oliver also initiated the formation of the NEHA History Project Task Force and the NEHA Sick, Bereavement, and Memorial Committee to support all members and partners. She is active in both groups.

Dr. Oliver plans to continue in retirement her educational pursuits as an adjunct faculty member at the Morehouse School of Medicine. She is also the director and founder of the Physician and Undergraduate Student Educational (PAUSE) Foundation, Inc, a nonprofit organization created in 1995. The mission of PAUSE is to increase the number of racial-ethnic minority and diverse stu-

dents in medicine and dentistry. She will return to be a member of the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council.

Dr. Oliver stated, “I am supportive of ‘We Are One NEHA’ and will forever be supportive of ‘One NEHA.’ It has been my honor to serve you and NEHA.”

**NEHA Celebrates National Food Safety Education Month**

By Terry Laird
(tlaird@neha.org)

This September, NEHA will be celebrating National Food Safety Education Month with a webinar series focused on emerging food safety trends

and by highlighting the efforts of food safety heroes who are making impacts all over the country! We will be exploring some emerging trends and the role of changing technology in food safety. Starting on September 1, NEHA will host one webinar each week exploring different topics alongside experts who are at the forefronts of their fields.

Join us as we dive into topics such as food safety during third-party delivery and the impacts of emerging food technologies in smart kitchens and automated services. Learn about the ways our profession is using technology to advance food safety education and how to apply new education techniques in your organization. You can also explore the world of cannabis edibles and learn about the food safety considerations for this rapidly growing industry. Food safety regulatory programs interested in the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards can join a detailed session to understand how funding from the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant Program can be used to further educate their teams and build a more robust food safety program.

We will be celebrating the work of food safety professionals whose passion, dedication, and contributions have had a significant impact on those around them with the return of our Food Safety Heroes campaign. Throughout the month of September we will be profiling these food safety heroes to celebrate and express gratitude for the work they do every day. If you would like to nominate a food safety hero, we would love to hear from you! Nominees are being accepted now through our online nomination form at bit.ly/NEHAFSH.

To view our past celebrations, take a look at the NEHA National Food Safety Education Month page at www.neha.org/neha-celebrates-national-food-safety-education-month.

We can’t wait to celebrate National Food Safety Education Month 2021 with you!



5 Checks for Safe Food Delivery From the NEHA Food Safety Program Committee

By Terryn Laird (tlaird@neha.org)

In response to the rise in demand for dine-at-home service from retail food establishments, the NEHA Food Safety Program Committee has developed a new infographic, 5 Checks for Safe Food Delivery, to help build capacity and further enhance food safety training offered by third-party delivery services. Increased demand for food delivery has highlighted the importance of providing information and education aimed to address the specific food safety concerns and practices associated with food and food packaging handling during delivery service.

This resource supplies information on safe food handling for delivery persons who might not have prior

experience in food service or who might have gaps in their knowledge related to delivery-specific best practices. The infographic is brief, easy-to-understand, and includes both text and images for each recommendation, allowing for increased accessibility by multilingual users. The five checks, or recommendations, are related to the health and hygiene of the delivery person, the cleanliness of the delivery vehicle, proper handling of food and beverage containers, maintaining safe temperature of foods during delivery, and being prepared for problems that might arise.

While the 5 Checks for Food Safety infographic is available in a traditional infographic format, it has also been specifically designed as a modular resource ready for digital integration, such as on existing phone or web apps. The content can be downloaded from the 5 Checks for Food Safety webpage (www.neha.org/5-checks) as individual sections or as text and images for easier integration.

The infographic was designed by the NEHA Food Safety Program Committee, which includes regulatory and industry professionals. To develop the five checks, the committee sought feedback and recommendations from third-party delivery companies, partner associations, and members of the Retail Food Safety Association Collaborative's Retail Food Safety Advisory Group. The content was directly informed by the Guidance Document for Direct-to-Consumer and Third-Party Delivery Service Food Delivery created by the Direct to Consumer Delivery Committee of the Conference for Food Protection.

As the prominence of third-party delivery services continues to rise, so does the importance of ensuring delivery drivers handle food safely from retail food establishments to the consumer. The 5 Checks for Safe Food Delivery infographic is a tool that can assist in filling critical educational gaps within rapidly emerging consumer trends. By providing clear and straightforward recommendations, NEHA aims to help retail food establishments and third-party delivery companies take action to better protect the health and safety of themselves and their customers.

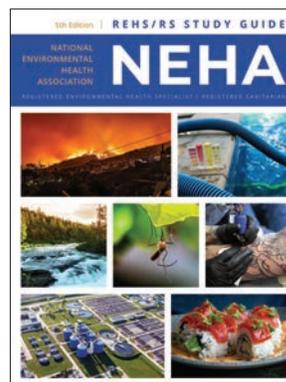
Updated Version of the REHS/RS Credential Exam to Release on September 1

By Sarah Hoover (credentialing@neha.org)

NEHA will release an updated version of its Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential exam on September 1, 2021. This release is a culmination of efforts that began in the last quarter of 2019. Subject matter experts (SMEs) were recruited to attend an in-person workshop in early February 2020. Little did the world know that we were about to experience a pandemic like most had never seen before. Due to the diligence and perseverance of these dedicated SMEs, virtual workshops were held over the course of 2020 through April 2021.

By adhering to the exam development process called Developing a Curriculum (DACUM), established by The Ohio State University over 40 years ago, NEHA continues to offer world-class credentials to environmental health professionals. Adherence to the DACUM process ensures that knowledge-based credentials, like those offered by NEHA, are relevant to professional practice and reliable in assessing minimum competency for credential designation. NEHA is next turning its focus on updating its Certified in Comprehensive Food Safety (CCFS) credential in the upcoming months.

Candidates interested in or currently eligible for the REHS/RS credential can visit the REHS/RS webpage at www.neha.org/rehs for the most up-to-date information regarding changes to the exam, along with an FAQ document detailing changes from the old exam to the new version.



New REHS/RS Study Guide Now Available

By Jaclyn Miller (jmiller@neha.org)

The NEHA Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) Study Guide has been updated! The new fifth edition incorporates the insights of 29 subject matter experts and has been recreated in a fresh visual layout to enhance the reading and studying experience.

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This essential resource includes 15 chapters that provide an overview of each content area for the REHS/RS credential exam. Each chapter covers a different environmental domain and is broken down into standardized sections including Roles and Responsibilities, Recommended Reading, Test Mapping, and Sample Exam Questions.

Chapters include:

- General Environmental Health
- Statutes and Regulations
- Food Protection
- Potable Water
- Wastewater
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Hazardous Materials
- Zoonoses, Vectors, Pests, and Poisonous Plants
- Radiation Protection
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Air Quality and Environmental Noise
- Housing Sanitation and Safety
- Institutions and Licensed Establishments
- Swimming Pools and Recreational Facilities
- Emergency Preparedness

The REHS/RS guide is 261 pages and is now available for purchase in the NEHA bookstore, priced at \$169 for NEHA members and \$199 for nonmembers. Visit NEHA's Study Resources page at www.neha.org/rehs-study-references for additional information and purchase options.

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. 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 three NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on pages 54 and 55.



Avery Moyler

I work as administrative support in the Entrepreneurial Zone to help support various projects, including online course delivery and policy projects largely related to body art. I am passionate about research, writing, and policy, and am glad to be working with an awesome team and using my skills in those areas to help environmental health professionals keep the public safe and healthy.

I was lucky enough to spend 5 years at the University of Virginia earning a Master of Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts. My education focused on agriculture, sustainability, and building healthy

communities. After graduating, I moved to Denver and worked as a ski instructor in the winter and did conservation work in the warmer months. When I was ready and eager to work in an office, I joined NEHA and as luck would have it, immediately began working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I love to travel, spend time outdoors, and cook (and eat). I've made it to about 25 countries so far and hope to get to many more! Some of my favorites include Cambodia, Indonesia, and Italy—basically anywhere scooters and mopeds are commonplace.



Charles Powell

I started at NEHA in September 2020 in the Entrepreneurial Zone as its new media and workforce development specialist. I primarily work on course development and producing video, audio, and photography on projects such as the upcoming Self-Assessment and Verification Audit online course and a Temporary Food Establishments

course for Puerto Rico. I also work on other video projects across the organization, such as the introduction videos and animations that were shown at the NEHA 2021 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition Three-Part Virtual Series.

Prior to joining NEHA, I worked at a variety of organizations across the country in video production, training, and education, such as Johnson & Johnson and the Denver Public Library. I also have an extensive career on the film festival circuit, producing festivals and screening my own work and films I've worked on at festivals around the world.

Outside of NEHA, I work on my own film projects and independent research focused on storytelling and science. My most recent animated film creatively reimagines handwashing as a Spaghetti Western and was featured in *The Human Touch*, a journal published by the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities.



Jordan Strahle

I joined NEHA in September 2020 as the marketing and communications manager within the *Journal*, Education, and Marketing department. I am responsible for assisting all NEHA staff in the development and execution of marketing plans, email blasts, social media, and updating portions of the website. I am passionate about ensuring that our

organization maintains a strong and consistent brand.

My first year with NEHA was interesting, to say the least, as I have been working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a worthwhile challenge to get to know the organization, as well as build relationships with coworkers I have only met

virtually. Despite this unusual start, I can honestly say that my favorite part of working at NEHA is the people I work with. Being the marketing and communications manager allows me to work with all departments within NEHA, which enables me to support their hard work and ensure that our membership takes advantage of everything we have to offer.

I graduated from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in communications with an emphasis in mixed media and broadcasting, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in political science with an emphasis in American political systems. Prior to joining NEHA, I was the director of communications

with the Colorado Contracts Association for 5 years. Early in my career I worked with the Colorado House of Representatives and served as a communications and constituent engagement aide for the Denver City Council.

I grew up in the small town of Granby, Colorado, and moved to Denver after college. My husband and I own a home in Aurora and truly love the Denver metro area. My passions include traveling, music, interior decorating, hanging out with my husband and dogs, and spoiling my nephew. I am looking forward to growing with NEHA and meeting all of my wonderful coworkers in person. 🐾

Did You Know?

Assembled in 2020, the NEHA History Project Task Force was charged to study and review the rich history of NEHA and the environmental health field, as well as make that history available to all. The NEHA History Project webpage highlights and shares the work of the task force, including an online virtual museum of artifacts from environmental health's past, electronic access to the "NEHA Green Book" that presents the history of NEHA's first 50 years, and much more. Check it out at www.neha.org/neha-history-project.

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sector. Like the soy industry, we should embed ourselves in everything, not as a survival mechanism but because we can speak to the issues those sectors value. Value creation and fee-for-service might ultimately prove to be incongruent models.

What I describe is a journey, not a destination. Funders generally do not desire to support community engagement and partnership development. The emphasis is on deliverables—numbers, dollars, impact. These deliverables are easily demonstrated by regulatory and conformance style inspection and illness data. All the while, like spadefoot toads, public health officials and their authority are being picked off one by one by disruptions in the political universe. Where do we go from here?

Let's learn to sing in unison. We are exploring the potential opportunity to engage a consultant to develop communica-



A view of the Pink Moon, a supermoon that occurred on April 26–27, 2021. Photo courtesy of David Dyjack.

tion tools and resources for both our public and private sector members. The aim of this endeavor would be for us to sing in unison,

from Guam in the west to Puerto Rico in the east. We would be better equipped to consistently tell our story, convey our value, and be generally more understandable and accessible to the public at large. Let's see if we can translate our organizational success into something valuable—a universally embraced profession. A profession whose broad training and preparation in natural and social sciences will serve to advance the health, safety, and financial security of communities everywhere.

I leave you with a photo I took of the April 2021 Pink Moon. The Cherokee Nation of the East Coast call it the "kawohni" or "flower moon," and the Creek Nation of the Southeast refer to it as "tasahcee-rakko" or "big spring moon." It symbolizes the arrival of spring rains and the promise of a bountiful summer. A vernal pool pregnant with possibilities. 🐾

Dave

ddyjack@neha.org
Twitter: @DTDyjack