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Link to NEHA News Release

NEHA and HUD Kick Off 2016 Annual Conference in San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas---The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) convene in San Antonio this week to host a joint annual educational conference, The State of Big Ideas: Moving Environmental Health Outside the Box. HUD Secretary Julián Castro will kick off the conference as the opening session keynote speaker.

The NEHA 2016 AEC and HUD Healthy Homes Conference, presented by Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, will bring together 1,200 environmental health and healthy housing professionals for an in-depth look at some of the most important issues facing the nation such as water quality, vector control, healthy housing and communities, climate change, asthma, emergency preparedness and response, food safety and protection, and more.

A number of organizations and individuals will be honored on Wednesday, June 15 for their leadership and contributions to the environmental health field. Recognition will be announced for:

- HUD Secretary’s Award for Healthy Homes
- UL Excellence in Sustainability Award
- Crumbine Award
- Walter F. Snyder Award
- Accela Scholarship Winners
Highlights of the conference include:

- The opening session features keynote speaker HUD Secretary Julián Castro followed by a panel with moderator Eric Pooley and panelists Janet McCabe U.S. Environmental Protection Administration Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation; Patrick Breysse, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Environmental Health Director; and Umair Shah, Harris County (Texas) Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES), Executive Director and Local Health Authority.
- The conference closing session, “From Sandy to San Bernardino: Risk, Response, & Resiliency” focuses on mental health care for environmental health professionals with panel of leading experts in the field of mental health and crisis response.
- “Flint Water Crisis: A Firsthand Account of the Principles by the Principals”
- “Pesticide-Contamination of Marijuana Products in the Mile High City: Investigations and Enforcement”
- “Challenges in Communicating the Public Health Risks of Climate Change”
- “One Health and EH: Perfect Partners in Securing Global Health”

There are more than 175 educational sessions in approximately two dozen different topic tracks covering the full gamut of environmental health subjects. The conference will also feature an exhibition and a variety of networking events. A full schedule and details are available at neha.org/aec.

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Editor’s Note:

Media representatives who would like to attend the conference may contact Clare Sinacori, 303-349-1002, to request a complimentary registration with verified press credentials.

About the National Environmental Health Association

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is a professional organization with more than 4,500 members in the public and private sectors as well as in universities and uniformed services. It publishes the peer-reviewed Journal of Environmental Health (JEH providing a valuable resource for the complete spectrum of environmental health topics. NEHA’s mission, "to advance the environmental health and protection professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all" is fulfilled in the products and services offered by NEHA through credentialing, training, education, networking, professional development, and policy involvement. Learn more about NEHA at neha.org and on Twitter, @nehaorg.

About the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD’s mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and http://espanol.hud.gov. You can also connect with HUD on social media and follow Secretary Castro on Twitter and Facebook or sign up for news alerts on HUD’s Email List.