ORLANDO, FLORIDA!

Almost 1,000 environmental health professionals flocked to this hot and sunny location to attend NEHA’s 2015 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition, July 13–15. This year’s theme, “Imagine the New NEHA: Tools for Success Today and Making a Difference Tomorrow,” played out in numerous ways throughout the conference. And what was palpable to all in attendance was the heightened level of excitement and energy as NEHA was launched into a new era.

The usual suspects formed the backbone of the conference: the multitude of environmental health sessions, the interactive Exhibition, and the networking events full of comradery and pure fun. New components to the conference—the meeting app, the use of social media, a different opening session, and a unique keynote—infused a fresh twist on the solid core of the conference. Tie it all together and attendees were treated to a multifaceted experience that provided education, training, networking, advancement, motivation, inspiration, policy involvement, and sheer enjoyment!

We thank all of our fantastic attendees, presenters, and exhibitors for making the 2015 AEC such a success. We truly hope that every one of you who made the trip to Orlando found it to be a rewarding and informative experience that will help you perform your duties and advance your career.

Check out the amazing AEC video (https://youtu.be/SQFx5evW8lo) to relive the memories and get psyched for the 2016 AEC. Flip back to pages 50 and 51 for information about the exciting 2016 AEC taking place in San Antonio, Texas, and the Call for Abstracts.
OPENING WELCOME

Conference attendees were brought together on the first day of the conference with a brief opening session. The room exploded and attendees came to their feet as NEHA President Dr. Carolyn Harvey opened the session and introduced Dr. David Dyjack as NEHA’s new executive director. The standing ovation reflected the tone felt throughout the conference and the tremendous amount of optimism for NEHA’s future under his leadership.

The opening went on to include a live singing of the national anthem by NEHA staff member Kristen Ruby-Cisneros and a welcoming statement from Dr. Pat Breysse, director of the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. A brief awards ceremony ended the session. A second awards ceremony took place after the Keynote Presentation and a list of award winners can be found on page 60.

Imagine this scene. A packed ballroom. A black table-clothed table with two wine glasses and bottle of red wine are on stage. A lone man sits on a stool and addresses the audience in an honest and intimate manner. This man is NEHA’s newly appointed executive director, Dr. David Dyjack, and he provided a unique keynote to AEC attendees.

Dr. Dyjack shared with the audience three basic principles that he promises to operate under as follows: 1) environmental health is a contact sport, 2) we need to remove the invisibility cloak from the profession, and 3) we need a more disciplined effort toward going global. He went on to share stories and thoughts that tie into these principles. Rather than provide a written record of the presentation, we encourage you to go to www.neha2015aec.org/keynote-presentation and view it yourself! This is one presentation that should not be missed by anyone!

“...the environmental health workforce works tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of everyone and at the AEC we have an opportunity to reaffirm and re-energize ourselves and our missions.”

— AEC attendee
“The NEHA presenters gave inspiring presentations that encourage me to keep developing my professional abilities so that I may have greater career opportunities in the future.”

– AEC attendee

numerous aerobic treatment units, media filters, and performance-based treatment systems. We extend our gratitude to FOWA’s Executive Director Roxanne Groover for hosting this special event!

The AEC would not be successful without the help of our incredible team of technical advisors who volunteer their time and energy into making sure we are offering the best education for attendees. The full listing of the 2014–2015 technical advisors is on page 49.

We also want to acknowledge our appreciation to our partners who assist in the education of the conference: the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs, the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration.
2015 AEC Session Tracks

- Children’s Environmental Health
- Climate Change
- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Emerging Environmental Health Issues
- Environmental Health Impact Assessment
- Environmental Health Tracking & Informatics
- Environmental Justice
- Food Safety
- International Environmental Health
- Leadership/Management
- Onsite Wastewater
- Pathogens & Outbreaks
- Recreational Waters
- Risk Assessment
- Schools
- Student Research Presentations
- Sustainability
- Sustainable Solid Waste
- Technology & Environmental Health
- Uniformed Services
- Vector Control & Zoonotic Disease
- Water Quality

“We are separated most of the year from our environmental health colleagues and friends across the country ... the AEC provides the opportunity to unite both personally and professionally, which cannot be replicated in any other venue.”

— AEC attendee

ORLANDO, FL

Not able to attend the AEC? Did you attend but weren’t able to sit in on a session that piqued your interest? We’ve got you covered! You can access more than 30 educational sessions that were recorded at the AEC. This is a free benefit for those who attended the conference. For those unable to attend the conference, these sessions can be purchased for $99/members or $215/nonmembers. This online archive of sessions enables you to view sessions on demand at your convenience; access speaker presentations, handouts, and other materials; and earn 20–30 NEHA continuing education hours. Details on the recorded session can be found at www.neha2015aec.org/recorded-sessions.
A highlight of the 2015 AEC was the new Connect4 NEHA app game, which was evident in the Exhibition and throughout the first two days of the AEC. It was great to see so many people embrace technology and connect digitally! Close to 70% used the app to add sessions and events to their schedule, create a profile, swap digital business cards, scan QR codes to earn points, and more.

Attendees earned different amounts of points for a variety of conference activities including attending sessions and events, meeting and scanning other attendees’ badges, sending a tweet, visiting an exhibitor, and meeting an award winner. Two drawings were held based on total points earned in three different point categories, one on Monday and one on Tuesday. We were pleasantly surprised to find quite a few of you made it to the Master of the Universe level, with 1,000 or more points! We always knew our environmental health professionals would rise to any challenge!

**Monday App Contest Winners**

$100 Amazon gift card for Master of the AEC Universe (1,000+ points): Stephen Gilman

$50 Amazon gift card for AEC Leader (500–1,000 points): Andrew Roszak

$25 Amazon gift card for AEC Champion (250–499 points): Stacie Duitsman

**Tuesday App Contest Winners**

$100 Amazon gift card for Master of the AEC Universe (1,000+ points): Janie Cambron

$50 Amazon gift card for AEC Leader (500–1,000 points): David Ruhl

$25 Amazon gift card for AEC Champion (250–499 points): Sherry Glick

The following are the overall top app scores for the 2015 AEC:

Stephen Gilman: 1,536 points

Sara Coly: 1,459 points

Lavone Lee: 1,295 points

Janie Cambron: 1,252 points

Andrew Roszak: 1,206 points

Roy Kroeger: 1,181 points

Sheila Pressley: 1,156 points

Ernesta Hickman: 1,063 points

Dawn Helms: 1,001 points

Beyond the winners and the points earned, use of the AEC meeting app greatly contributes toward our efforts to green our conference and reduce paper consumption while encouraging more interactions and use of technology to get the most out of the conference. Thank you to all for participating!

**A sample of quotes from the AEC meeting app’s Chatter page:**

**RPS/RPES Sara Coly**

I never tweeted before the conference, but the words of knowledge and wisdom from presenters are worth a tweet #nehaaec

**Janie Cambron**

great facilitated group discussion on health literacy in environmental justice session #nehaaec

**Abigail Tompkins**

“Environmental Health is a contact sport” I’ll be #teamNEHA from now on... #nehaaec. Thank you to @DTDyjack for the conversational twist on EH

**Jennifer George**

I’m excited for tomorrow! For the first time attending it has been very educational and I have enjoyed all the networking! There are so many great people attending!

**Erin Cavin**

so excited to be attending such great classes right out the gate at the NEHA AEC!

**Jennifer Osorio**

@DTDyjack great motivational talk!!! let’s see where NEHA can go #nehaaec
EVENTS GALORE AT THE AEC

There were so many ways to network at the AEC and attendees took full advantage of the opportunities. The annual UL Event started the conference off with a trip to Universal’s City Walk and cocktails and appetizers in the Hard Rock Café’s hip and swanky John Lennon Room. Other events such as the Networking Luncheon, Exhibition, and Presidents Banquet brought attendees together and were hugely successful. Planned and impromptu, there were numerous meetings, dinners, and happy hours where attendees shared insights and knowledge and were able to kick back and just enjoy the company of each other.

P.S. You missed out if you didn’t get a chance to stop by the Florida Environmental Health Association’s silent auction and social event—the room was hopping with energy and fun!

THE AEC INVADES TWITTER

Social media played a heightened role at this year’s AEC. Along with the meeting app, Twitter was a popular way to instantly share conference thoughts, images, and information. Using #nehaec, 125 people tweeted about the AEC with 1,132 tweets and 872,514 impressions (for the time period of July 1–31). Tweets covered a broad range of topics from newly formed friendships and reconnections with old ones to the keynote and a wide variety of sessions, plus all the different conference events.

Andy Roszak (@andyroszak) led the way in tweeting about the AEC and you definitely need to check out the video he put together and posted via Twitter:
@andyroszak: My great week at #nehaaec—video featuring @DTDyjack @ushahmd @LisaBrownMPH @kristen_e_ruby @abigailvonnew & more! https://youtu.be/1BhezJsvtKo

Not on Twitter? If you plan to attend next year, consider creating an account so you don’t miss out! Start by following NEHA at @nehaorg.

A shout out to those who made the leader boards for tweets and mentions (and people you might want to consider following!).

Top Five by Mentions
1. @dtdyjack
2. @andyroszak
3. @nehaorg
4. @kristen_e_ruby
5. @michelesamaryat

Top Five by Tweets
1. @andyroszak
2. @michelesamaryat
3. @swallingford82
4. @kristen_e_ruby
5. @mononacoenviron
NEHA’s 2015 AEC Community Volunteer Event was fun, inspirational, and educational! NEHA continues this event as part of its sustainability initiatives to help offset the energy expenditures from hosting a conference. This year we had 14 volunteers and many of them are “regulars” who return each year. That’s commitment and loyalty!

Clean the World Foundation

The event was held again this year at the Clean the World Foundation (CTW) recycling operation center, but this time in Orlando. CTW only has two U.S. facilities—one in Las Vegas and one in Orlando. Lucky us!

CTW’s mission is to collect and recycle soap and shampoo products and distribute to those in need. CTW helps prevent millions of deaths caused by hygiene-related illnesses. It’s a great partnership for NEHA! Learn more about CTW’s activities including its safe recycling process at https://cleantheworld.org/.

Continuing Education Offered

New for this year: volunteers received 0.5 continuing education units! In addition to sorting 11,000 bottles and 4,000 soaps, and boxing up 20 boxes of product, volunteers listened to a presentation on CTW’s mission and activities as well as took a tour to learn about their soap rebatching, melting, and sterilization processes. It inspired many of us to make this event bigger and better!

Sponsorship

A big THANK YOU goes to Starbucks who sponsored the bus to/from the event and provided snacks and reusable cups. NEHA again provided water and collapsible water bottles.

Thank you!

Volunteers and NEHA staff also donated about four pounds of travel-size amenities. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their continued dedication and participation! If you missed out this year, please volunteer next year in San Antonio. Your ideas are welcome!

Sponsors

(listed in order of highest contribution to lowest)

- UL
- Abila
- American Public University
- Accela (formerly Decade Software Company)
- NSF
- Digital Health Department
- National Restaurant Association
- Prometric
- Skillssoft
- XTIVIA

- Mitchell Humphrey & Co.
- Orkin
- Anua
- ITW Pro Brands
- Micro Essential Laboratory
- Presby Environmental, Inc.
- Starbucks Coffee Company
- Sweeps Software, Inc.
- YUM! Brands

Partners & Grants

- Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
- Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Environmental Health
- Food and Drug Administration*
- Indian Health Service
- NEHA Technical Advisors
- Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service

*Funding for this conference was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant 1 R13 FD 005363-01; views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the U.S. government.
Monday night July 13 kicked off the 2015 Exhibition Grand Opening & Party with great energy and enthusiasm from attendees! NEHA got to show off its new exhibit booth but best of all was seeing the friendly faces of our members in person and welcoming them side-by-side with our faithful exhibitors. The conference would not be a success without the help of many partners, and we owe our deep gratitude to those who exhibited with us in Orlando. Also new this year, we hosted Tuesday’s coffee break and lunch in the Exhibition, which offered additional networking time to meet with exhibitors and each other. In keeping with our efforts to be greener this year, door prizes were randomly selected electronically from the AEC attendee list and more than a dozen door prizes were given on both Monday and Tuesday.

Thank You for Door Prize Donations!
- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health/Peter Wright
- Georgia Affiliate
- Indiana Affiliate
- Kansas Affiliate
- Massachusetts Affiliate
- Missouri Affiliate
- Montana Affiliate
- NEHA
- NSF
- Terry Osner
- The University of Findlay

Networking with exhibitors enabled attendees to learn more about new products and invaluable services.

There was a great turnout on the opening night of the Exhibition.

2015 AEC Exhibitors

- AEHAP
- American Academy of Sanitarians
- American Chemistry Council
- American Public Health Association
- American Public University
- Anua
- Association of Food and Drug Officials
- Association of Professional Piercers
- CDC—National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Columbia Southern University
- Custom Data Processing, Inc.
- Decade Software, an Accela Company
- Digital Health Department, Inc.
- EJen Corporation
- Environmental Hazards Services
- Environmental Information Association
- Food and Drug Administration
- Florida Environmental Health Association
- Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
- GLO GERM
- HealthSpace USA Inc.
- Hedgerow Software Ltd
- HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
- IAPMO R&T
- Industrial Test Systems, Inc.
- ITW PRO Brands
- IVS—Integrated Veteran Services
- LaMotte Company
- Mattress Safe, Inc.
- Micro Essential Laboratory
- Mitchell Humphrey
- MSU Online MS in Food Safety Program
- Mycometer
- National Library of Medicine
- National Restaurant Association
- National Swimming Pool Foundation
- NCBRT
- NSF
- Ozark River Portable Sinks
- Paster Training Inc.
- Polylok Inc.
- Presby Environmental, Inc.
- Prometric
- QuanTEM Laboratories
- San Jamar
- Shat-R-Shield Inc.
- Skillsoft
- StateFoodSafety.com
- Sweeps Software
- The University of Findlay
- ThermoWorks
- Underwriters Laboratories
- USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
- XTIVIA
AWARDS AND HONORS
Numerous notable individuals and organizations were recognized at the AEC. For more information about each award, please go to www.neha.org/about-neha/awards.

A. Harry Bliss Editor’s Award
Peter Thornton

Excellence in Sustainability Award
City of Columbus, Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Joe Beck Educational Contribution Award
James English

Past Presidents Award
Sheila Pressley

Sabbatical Exchange Award
Michael A. Pascucilla

Dr. R. Neil Lowry Grant
Columbus Public Health, Environmental Health Division (OH)

Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (NE)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary’s Award for Healthy Homes
Cross Program Coordination
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
Public Housing/Multifamily Supported Housing
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

Public Policy
Breathe Easy Coalition of Maine

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards
Christopher Conrad
Elizabeth Pirtle
Jennie Wong
Shanta Zietz

NSF International Scholarship
Natasha Borgen

Student Research Presentations
Amanda Bewley
Adam Mannarino
Linzi Thompson
Abigail Tompkins

Decade Scholarship Awards
Michelle Biloadeau
Lynn Bremby
Charles Daniel
Cindy Goocher
Claudia Herrera
Michele Howard
Eric Maday
Nikolay Ostrovskiy
Scott Reynolds
Michelle Rhone
Teresa Sherrod
Gregory Thomas
Aftan Vargas
Dawn Wair
Stewart Whitney

Outgoing Regional Vice President Award
Marcy Barnett

Outgoing President Award
Carolyn Harvey

Presidential Citations
Marcy Barnett
Darryl Booth
Edward Briggs
Gary Brown
Norbert Campbell
Alicia Collins
Brian Collins
Bob Custard
Tim Hatch

Keith Johnson
Roy Kroeger
Adam London
Sandra Long
Lynne Madison
Priscilla Oliver
Sheila Pressley
Vince Radke
David Riggs
Kristen Ruby-Cisneros
Henroy Scarlett
LCDR James Speckhart
Ned Therien

Certificates of Merit

Individual
Sandra R. Baniaga-Brown (NV)
Kimberley Carlton (MN)
CAPT Keith Cook (AK)
Thomas Dominic (AZ)
Scott Holmes (NE)
Michele Howard (Nat’l Capitol Area)
Danica M. Lee (CO)
Kathleen MacVarish (MA)
Colleen Maitoza (CA)
Noel Coleman Reid (Jamaica)

Team
AZ—Cheri Dale and David Morales
CO—Colorado Directors of Environmental Health
MA—The Massachusetts Healthy Cosmetology Committee
MN—Jeff Brown, Jesse Harmon, Sarah Hogan, Caleb Johnson, Kyle Johnsen, Kris Keller, Diane Olson, and Amy Zagar
Nat’l Capitol Area—Ronald Campbell, Shannon McKeon, Nicole Biala, Jeanelle Rogers, and Diana Rodriguez
VA—Daniel Blasche, Keith Ayotte, Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins, and Corey Dixon
Walter F. Snyder Award

Ron Grimes, RS, MPH, DAAS

NSF International and NEHA presented this distinguished award to Ron Grimes, RS, MPH, DAAS. The Snyder Award, given in honor of NSF International’s cofounder and first executive director Walter F. Snyder, is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental health. Grimes was honored for more than 40 years of significant and lasting contributions to environmental public health through his work on consensus national standards, education, leadership, and public service.

“Ron Grimes’ achievements reflect the principles expressed by Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International,” said NSF International President and CEO Kevan Lawlor. “His extensive knowledge of environmental health and his commitment to educating regulators and environmental health professionals demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of environmental health.”

“Ron’s leadership at the two health departments he directed, as well as his NEHA leadership and his role at NSF International, establish him as a highly regarded and respected leader in the environmental health community,” said NEHA Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack.


Breaking News at the AEC

On Sunday, July 12, NEHA’s board of directors voted to create the new Industry Affiliate! The mission of the affiliate is to provide an open forum where industry and service providers can work collaboratively on environmental health initiatives and to coordinate unified positions that help NEHA carry out its mandate. The Industry Affiliate later held a meeting at the AEC where interested attendees discussed the bylaws and the purpose of the group, as well as membership fees. Meeting attendees approved the affiliate bylaws and elected an interim board. It was an enthusiastic first meeting and the board is now working hard to put the infrastructure in place and to recruit members. Anyone interested in the new Industry Affiliate should contact Shelly Wallingford at swalling@starbucks.com.