SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS!

They say everything is bigger in Texas and this year, NEHA’s 80th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition was no exception with the partnership between our AEC and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) Healthy Homes Conference. Our two conferences joined forces in San Antonio from June 13–16, 2016.

Not only was our partnership with HUD new to our programming this year, we also redesigned the layout of our annual event. We departed from our usual conference schedule and started the AEC on Monday afternoon with the Opening Session & Keynote. Immediately following this event was the always popular Exhibition Grand Opening & Party. We also made changes to the Exhibition, which opened the first night of the conference and stayed open all day on the next, and the Awards Presentation, which was a stand-alone event this year (and only one hour long!). Another major change this year was adding the Texas Social in lieu of the Presidents Banquet. Instead of ending the conference in the evening at the Presidents Banquet, it ended with a plenary closing session at 1 p.m. on Thursday to allow for travel that afternoon.

What did not change, however, was the vast array of educational sessions, meaningful networking opportunities, and amazing comradery among all in attendance.

With the introduction of all these new facets to the AEC, we knew it was going to be a big year. And with over 1,300 attendees, our predictions were not wrong!

Momentum is on our side and we’ve already started planning for the 2017 AEC taking place in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Turn to page 69 for information about the 2017 AEC and the Call for Abstracts.
HUD Secretary Julian Castro Kicks Off AEC

The conference started on Monday, June 13 in the late afternoon with the Opening Session & Keynote. We were honored to have HUD Secretary Julian Castro as our keynote speaker, who is also a former mayor of San Antonio. Secretary Castro’s moving presentation discussed the importance of smoke-free environments in public housing, along with other crucial legislature and how necessary that is for our children’s health and safety. On behalf of NEHA and HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, we thank Secretary Castro for joining us and sharing his passion with our attendees. His presentation was a great start to a very exciting week ahead.

Panel Discussions at the Opening Session

The keynote was followed by two panel discussions moderated by Eric Pooley, senior vice president for strategy and communications with the Environmental Defense Fund. The first panel featured Dr. Patrick Breysse, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) National Center for Environmental Health(NCEH)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); Dr. Umair Shah, executive director and local health authority for Harris County, Texas; and Michelle Miller, acting director for HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes.

The second panel had Dr. Alexandra Bambas Nolen, vice president for impact at Episcopal Health Foundation; Mary Ellen Burns, senior vice president of grants implementation for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County; Christopher Ptomey, senior director of government relations for Habitat for Humanity International’s Office of Government Relations and Advocacy; and Joanne Zurcher, government affairs director at NEHA. Both panels discussed the challenges facing the field of environmental health while looking toward the future and focusing on how we can all work together to make our environment safer.
With environmental health in the news so often the past year, the AEC made sure to feature sessions on cutting edge topics such as the Zika virus, Flint and its lead-water crisis, and the San Bernardino terrorist attack that shook an entire environmental health department.

The session, “Flint Water Crisis: A Firsthand Account of the Principles by the Principals,” examined the events that lead to the tragic exposure of Flint’s residents to lead through the public drinking water system. Lessons learned were shared by Dr. Marc Edwards, the Virginia Tech researcher who broke the lead-in-water story, and Mark Valacak, health officer for the Genesee County Health Department. Over 250 attendees were present to hear these two eyewitness accounts of this controversial event.

To speak on the topic of Zika, Dr. Claudia Riegel, director for the City of New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board, joined us in San Antonio for a 90-minute presentation that discussed the partner agency framework the City of New Orleans has created to enhance its ability to conduct mosquito control and maximize efficiency, and how they utilize their integrated pest management approach while including community involvement.

The Climate Change track saw an exciting year with the addition of a panel presentation that included Diane Raynes, assistant director, and Tricia Roy, senior analyst, from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (U.S. GAO); Dr. Edward Maibach, director for the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University; and Dr. George Luber, chief of CDC’s Climate and Health Program. The panel discussed communication and climate change stemming from the findings of the U.S. GAO report on the risks climate change poses to public health and how to best address these risks and communicate them effectively.

From feng shui to contemporary challenges for women in the workplace and healthy homes to informatics, the educational programming this year was top notch. Thanks to all our presenters who made such a memorable impression by sharing your ideas, research, and technology with attendees.

Another addition this year with our new conference format was a closing session to wrap-up the conference and be able to send off attendees together. Environmental health professionals often put themselves in harm’s way to make sure others are safe and lessons are learned moving forward, so the closing session was dedicated to the neglected subject of mental healthcare. The closing session, “From Sandy to San Bernardino: Risk, Response & Resiliency,” brought together a panel of leading experts in the field of mental health and crisis response. Dr. April Naturale, senior technical specialist at ICF International, moderated this emotional session that took attendees through different crisis events that environmental health professionals have faced —Ebola, Flint, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and most recently, what our environmental health family in San Bernardino went through this past December—and discussed how we can be better prepared. The closing session panelists included Donna Knusoton, public health analyst at CDC/NCEH; Max Kiefer, interim director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Western States Division; and Joshua Dugas, chief for the Division of Environmental Health Services for San Bernardino County. We would like to thank all panelists for their bravery in speaking openly and honestly to attendees.

With a standing ovation for Joshua Dugas on our closing panel and for all of San Bernardino, we wrapped this year’s AEC. We want to thank those who joined us in San Antonio, Texas, and for your support of NEHA, HUD, and environmental health. We hope to see you in 2017!
2016 AEC Session Tracks
This year’s educational program featured over 200 sessions and 40 poster presentations. The addition of HUD’s Healthy Homes Conference added 60 sessions that focused on healthy homes and communities. Attendees were able to take full advantage of such diverse sessions spanning over 20 different tracks.
- Air Quality
- Children’s Environmental Health
- Climate Change
- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Emerging Environmental Health Issues
- Environmental Health Impact Assessment
- Environmental Health Tracking & Informatics
- Food Safety & Defense
- General Environmental Health
- Healthy Homes and Communities
- Leadership/Management
- Onsite Wastewater
- Pathogens & Outbreaks
- Recreational Waters
- Schools/Institutions
- Student Research Presentations
- Sustainability
- Technology and Environmental Health
- Uniformed Services
- Vector Control & Zoonotic Diseases
- Water Quality

“What a great place and opportunity to meet with your fellow environmental health specialists to collaborate, learn, and work together to provide a stronger professional foundation to share within your communities across the country.” – AEC attendee

Recorded Sessions
If you were unable to attend the AEC or if you did 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 $149/members or $249/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.neha.org/aec/recorded-sessions.
MEETING APP

This year NEHA decided to go green with a much smaller conference program guide and a greater reliance on our conference meeting app. Of course, our wonderful attendees stepped right up to the plate and embraced the opportunity to go digital! More than 1,000 attendees used the app to view sessions, manage their schedule, use the local guide maps to see the surrounding area and navigate between hotels, make connections with other attendees, and of course, play the Connect4 NEHA game to earn points.

The use of the app allowed attendees to scan each other’s name badges as a way to network, which allowed them the opportunity to set up meetings and send messages back and forth. Attendees started earning points as soon as they checked in and could earn points for scanning name badges, attending sessions and special events, visiting exhibitors and sponsors, and, this year, locating our new NEHA mascot, Lex, and scanning his name badge for points! Thanks to all attendees for trying something new and as always, for your participation in Connect4 NEHA. Congratulations to our winners this year!

The 2016 AEC app winners were:
- $100 Visa gift card for Master of the AEC Universe (most overall most points): Kedesch Altidor-Dorcely
- $100 Visa gift card for AEC Master (1,500+ points): Carolyn Watson
- $50 Visa gift card for AEC Leader (751–1,500 points): Charles Tate
- $25 Visa gift card for AEC Champion (500–750 points): Mary Alice Peterson

NEHA TV

We partnered with WebsEdge, an international film and broadcasting company, to bring NEHA TV to the 2016 AEC. NEHA TV was an on-site conference television channel featuring a new episode daily that was screened around the venue, as well as on a dedicated television channel in select guest hotel rooms and online.

Each daily program had two features:
- Thought Leadership: 5-minute sponsored film segments highlighting cutting edge programs, industry leaders, case studies, and best practices in environmental health.
- Conference News: A daily program of conference highlights featuring “behind the scenes” interviews, coverage of conference events, and reactions to the day from attendees.

Some exclusive features, which include interviews with CDC’s Dr. George Luber, Zika expert Dr. Claudia Riegel, and HUD’s Michelle Miller, can be view at www.neha.org/aec/neha-tv.

#nehaaec Twitter Posts

Sheila D. Pressley @sdpressley
@DTDyjack It was a great session! As you said, we need additional time for #nehaaec 2017!! See you Grand Rapids!!

Monona County Envi @MononaCoEnviron
Healthy Homes sessions have been awesome #nehaaec #SanAntonio

Cathy Blume @CathyBlume
So much information today! I am new to healthy homes but so interesting #nehaaec

Dr. Umair A. Shah @ushahmd
Shout out to @hcphtx #staff just after the @nehaorg @HUDgov keynote #nehaaec today / thank you!! #health

Victoria Griffith @foodsafetyqueen
Have always learned so much from @MaricopaHealth #activemanagement control #nehaaec

K. Altidor @qkay
Bridging Environmental Health Gaps such an excellent session. Dr. Cecil is speaking the truth! #nehaaec

Bryan Brooks @BryanWBrooks
Great first panel discussion moderated by @EricPooley @CDCgov @HUDgov @nehaorg #nehaaec NHHM2016

Michele Samarya-Timm @MicheleSamaryaT
#nehaaec San Bernardino silver lining: meeting and receiving help from amazing EH professionals from all over
The annual UL Event once again sold out a month leading up to the event and it’s no surprise with the creative ways attendees are able to see our host city through this event. This year’s event was no exception with a boat ride along the San Antonio River on Tuesday evening that ended at the historic Pearl Brewery District. Guests were then able to socialize and dine on some delicious food before the night ended with bus rides back to the conference hotels. We heartily thank UL for continuing to entertain and excite our attendees through their sponsorship of this special event.

Over 700 attendees joined us for a Texas barbeque and live country western music on Wednesday evening at our Texas Social. The event was held at La Villita Historic Arts Village along the banks of the San Antonio River. Cold drinks helped beat the heat as attendees enjoyed networking, catching up with friends and colleagues, and line dancing during the event. Thanks to the Bret Mullins Band who entertained attendees throughout the event and to our attendees for showing up in smiles and cowboy boots!

Other events such as the Exhibition Grand Opening & Party and the Awards Presentation 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 just kick back and enjoy the company of each other.

Sponsors, Partners, and Contributors

We appreciate all of the following organizations that made this conference possible!

**Diamond Sponsors**
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc.
- National Center for Healthy Housing
- UL

**Platinum Sponsors**
- Accela
- American Public University

**Gold Sponsors**
- Digital Health Department, Inc.
- National Restaurant Association
- Prometric
- Skillsoft Corporation

**Silver Sponsors**
- Orkin
- Xtivia

**Bronze Sponsors**
- Sweeps Software, Inc.
- Presby Environmental, Inc.

**Special Thanks to**
- Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
- Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- CDC/NCEH
- FDA
- NEHA’s Technical Advisors
- Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- U.S. EPA
- U.S. Government Accountability Office
The Exhibition opened on the first evening of the conference with the Grand Opening & Party, an event that is always a favorite for attendees. The event provides the opportunity to network with exhibitors, sponsors, and other attendees. Food stations and cash bars were set up throughout the exhibit hall on the opening night. NEHA's booth added some fun and innovative elements with an Instagram picture station with props.

Our exhibit hours were extended this year and midmorning and midafternoon coffee breaks were brought in to the exhibit hall so attendees and exhibitors could network while taking a break from educational sessions. Our partnership with HUD's Healthy Homes Conference brought in more exhibitors and new faces to the event. Thank you to all of our exhibitors for joining us this year in San Antonio. We appreciate the value you add for our attendees and our conference, and look forward to seeing you at the 2017 AEC in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

2016 AEC Exhibitors

Accela
Advanced Business Software, LLC
Air Chek, Inc.
American Academy of Sanitarians
American Chemistry Council
American Public Health Association
American Public University
American Society of Home Inspectors
Anua
Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
Association of Professional Piercers
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Bitwise Industries
Building Performance Institute, Inc.
CDC Health Communication Specialists
ORISE Fellow
CDC NCEH/ATSDR
Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction
Custom Data Processing, Inc.
Digital Health Department, Inc.
ECOBOND LBP, LLC
Eljen Corporation
Environmental Hazards Services, LLC
Environmental Information Association
Experience Grand Rapids
FDA/CFSAN
GL Solutions
GLO GERM
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
HealthSpace USA Inc
Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc.
Hedgerow Software Ltd.
Heuresis Corporation
Hoot Systems
HUD
Industrial Test Systems, Inc.
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials R&T
International Food Protection Training Institute
INGO, LLC
Inspect2GO Health Inspection Software
ITW Pro Brands

Keys to a Healthy Home
Marcor Development Corp/Azelis Americas
McCall & Spero Environmental, Inc.
Medical Education Training Campus
Micro Essential Lab
Mitchell Humphrey
MSU Online MS in Food Safety Program
Mycometer
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Board of Public Health Examiners
National Center for Biomedical Research and Training
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Environmental Health Association
National Library of Medicine
National Restaurant Association
National Swimming Pool Foundation
Northeastern Integrated Pest Management
NSF International
Ozark River Hygienic Hand-Wash Station
Polylok, Inc.
Presby Environmental, Inc.
Prometric
Protec Instrument Corporation
QuanTEM Food Safety Laboratories
San Jamar
Shat-R-Shield, Inc.
Skillsoft Corporation
StateFoodSafety.com
Sweeps Software, Inc.
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Environmental Health Association
ThermoWorks
Underwriters Laboratories
The University of Findlay
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. EPA Indoor Environments Division
U.S. Fire Administration
WareSys
Williams Comfort Products
Zonolite Attic Insulation Trust
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Walter F. Snyder Environmental Health Award

Stephen R. Tackitt, MPH, RS, DAAS

NSF International and NEHA presented this distinguished award to Stephen Tackitt. 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. Tackitt was honored for more than 40 years of significant and lasting contributions to environmental and public health through leadership, education, public service, and work on consensus national standards.

“Steve Tackitt’s accomplishments reflect the principles expressed by Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International,” said NSF International President and CEO Kevan P. Lawlor. “His extensive experience and knowledge of environmental health and his commitment to education demonstrate a strong dedication to the promotion of public health. As chair of several NSF/ANSI standards committees, his collaboration and interpersonal skills were instrumental in successfully advancing standards development through the consensus process.”

“Steve’s innovative and collaborative leadership style, including his NEHA leadership role, establish him as a highly regarded and respected leader in the environmental health community. His commitment to the profession is a model for future leaders in public health, and his enthusiasm and ability to build consensus attest to an exceptional, memorable and rewarding career,” said NEHA Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack.

To read more about Tackitt’s career, please visit http://www.nsf.org/newsroom/stephen-r-tackitt-earns-walter-f-snyder-environmental-health-award-from-n.

Stephen Tackitt graciously accepts the 2016 Snyder Award with words of wisdom and much appreciation.

Check out more photos from the 2016 AEC on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NEHA.org!
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.

AAS Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award
CAPT Wendy Fanaselle

Accela/NEHA 2016 AEC Scholarships
Valerie Cohen
Peter Cooley
Becky Elias
Kathryn Garcia
Nancy-Ann Hall
Carly Hegarty
Christy Klaus
Iris Lang
Shannon McKeon
Mary Alice Peterson
Therese Pilonetti
Karen Solberg
April Torham
JoAnn Xiong-Mercado
Lydia Zweimiller

AEHAP/NCEH Student Research Competition Winners
Scott Biebas, Baylor University
Ethan Fuhrman, University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire
Marissa Taylor, Western Carolina University
Joshua Volkan, East Carolina University

Dr. R. Neil Lowry Grant
Riverside County Department of Environmental Health

Excellence in Sustainability Award
City of Plano, Environmental Health & Sustainability Department

HUD Secretary’s Award for Healthy Homes
Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Cross Sector Coordination Among Health, Environment, and Housing
Yesler Terrace Breathe Easy Program
(Seattle, WA)
Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Public Policy
Regional Asthma Management Program
(Oakland, CA)

Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Public Housing/Multifamily Supported Housing
Boston Residential Investigation on Green and Healthy Transitions (BRIGHT)

Innovating for Environmental Health App Challenge
Biky, created by Nicolas Leon, Diana Hurtado, and Angela Jimenez

NEHA 2016 Presidential Citations
Transition Period Leadership
Alicia Collins
Brian Collins
Carolyn Harvey
Mel Knight
Keith Krinn
Endowment Fund Leadership
Welford Roberts
Support for Environmental Health Students
Sandra Long
James Speckhart
My Wingman
Vince Radke
Finance Committee Leadership
Adam London
Affiliate Engagement Committee Leadership
Lynne Madison
AEC Committee Leadership
Laura Brister
Roy Kroeger
Journal Column Help
Kristen Ruby-Cisneros
Board Support
Faye Koeltzow
Visionary Leadership
David Dyjack

NEHA/AAS/APU Scholarships
Undergraduate
Maryann Cowart, University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire
Morgan Lawson, Western Carolina University
Molly Smith, University of Georgia
Graduate
Naomi Carlson, Kent State University

NEHA Affiliate Certificates of Merit
Individuals
Barry Ambrose (AL)
Katie Bante (AK)
Sandy Collins (MA)
Kathy King (NE)
Candice Levenberry (Nat’l Capitol Area)
Ronald David Lund (UT)
Jason Ravenscroft (IN)
Shannon Rohr (MN)
Michelle Clausen Rosendahl (IA)
Traci Slowinski (TX and Business & Industry)
Jessica Voglewede (MI)
Team
AL—The Daniel Foundation
FL—Host affiliate team for the NEHA 2015 AEC (Team members: Tricia Dall, Michael Crea, and Carolyn Balcar)
MA—Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts Inspector Training, Food Certificate Program
MD, Nat’l Capitol Area, & VA—DC Department of Health, Food Safety and Hygiene Inspection Services Division

NEHA Outgoing Regional Vice-President Award
Edward Briggs
Keith Johnson

NEHA Outgoing President Award
Bob Custard

NEHA Past Presidents Award
Stan Hazan
David Ludwig

NSF International Scholarship Program Winner
Melanie Keil, Colorado State University

Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award
Food, Lodging, and Institution Section, Wake County Environmental Services