

## NEHA SECOND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

NEHA elects its leaders through a ballot that goes to all active and life members prior to the annual conference. Among other things, the ballot features the election for the position of NEHA second vice president. The person elected to this position begins a five-year commitment to NEHA that involves advancing each year to a different national office, eventually to become NEHA's president.

Election policies specify that profiles for the second vice president be limited to 800 words in total length. If a candidate's profile exceeds that limit, the policy requires that the profile is terminated at the last sentence before the 800-word limit is exceeded. In addition, the submitted profiles have not been grammatically edited, but presented as submitted and within the 800-word limitation. This year, NEHA presents one candidate for the second vice president office.



### Priscilla Oliver, PhD

Priscilla Oliver, PhD, is a Senior Life Scientist/Regional Program Manager in the Office of the Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa with a BS degree in Biology and a twice graduate of Georgia State University with MPA and PhD degrees

in Educational/Health Administration. Dr. Oliver attended her first National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in 1993. She joined then and has remained an active strong member.

Her NEHA activities have expanded over the years. Since 2001 she has volunteered time supporting the following NEHA Technical Sections: Emerging Diseases/Vector Control/Zoonotic Diseases, Institutional Environmental Health, and Environmental Health in Schools. She later chaired and co-chaired the Hazardous Materials and Toxic Substances Section and served as Technical Advisor. Dr. Oliver was a member of the *Journal of Environmental Health* Technical Editorial Advisory Board for more than 12 years and has been a Peer Reviewer for more than 15 years. She consistently attends and supports each NEHA AEC.

Dr. Oliver received the 2014 Walter F. Snyder Award from NSF International and NEHA for achievement in advancing environmental health. She received the 2013 NEHA Past Presidents Award, the 2010 Presidential Citation Award, and numerous letters of appreciation for longstanding contributions for dedicated service to NEHA and the profession.

As a 1988 Greater Leadership Opportunities graduate, Dr. Oliver was a legislative fellow with the Environment and Health Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives under Congressman Roy Roland, MD (GA). She served as a fellow in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Dr. Louis Sullivan in 1989. She also rotated in the Office of Administration and Management, U.S. EPA Headquarters under Mr. Charlie Grizzle. Dr. Oliver worked with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Brunswick Field Office as a Biologist.

In academia, Dr. Oliver taught Academic Medicine and Environmental Health at the Morehouse School of Medicine and wrote several grants for research and to promote school development. She also taught Public Administration at Kennesaw State University and Troy University Atlanta Campus. She is currently a Practitioner on the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation

Council. Dr. Oliver helped create the National Council on Diversity in Environmental (N-CODE) Health with Professor Joe Beck, other Eastern Kentucky University officials, and representatives from various federal, state, local, and industrial organizations. In 1995, she founded the Physician and Undergraduate Student Educational (PAUSE) Partnerships Foundation, Inc. to mentor students and increase the number of minority and diverse physicians.

Since 2009, Dr. Oliver, has organized and been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 534 in U.S. EPA. She is currently the President and received an award for increasing membership. Dr. Oliver represents some 550 scientists, engineers, attorneys, and accountants, and is the Women and Fair Practices National U.S. EPA Council Coordinator. She works with employees, AFGE district and national leaders, and with agencies to provide better leadership for contracts and labor relations policies and laws for environmental health professionals. Under the Partnership for Sustainable Healthcare, Dr. Oliver leads the Atlanta Federal Center in the Prescription Drug Take Back Program by collecting unused, unwanted, and expired drugs from employees in 20 agencies for proper disposal. Some 266 pounds of drugs have been collected in this partnership with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Agency and Food and Drug Administration since 2011. Teaching classes, coordinating union, health, and recruitment events, conducting congressional visits, inspecting industrial and wastewater facilities, attending show-cause meetings, making a variety of presentations, administering grants, and holding negotiations sessions with employees and managers have filled the federal work life for Dr. Oliver.

She received the 2005 U.S. EPA Diversity Award, the 2015 Georgia Public Administrator of the Year Award, the 2015 Delta Sorority Torch Award, the Clark Atlanta University Trailblazer Award, and the Anthony Rachal Award of Excellence from Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. Oliver is a Licensed Georgia Real Estate Broker and a Certified Project Officer. She also is a Life Member of the Georgia State Alumni Association and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Oliver has been consistent in her environmental health commitments and work ethics for some 42 years. She brings to the NEHA Board a variety of meaningful and relevant experiences, qualifications, and skills. Dr. Oliver has a simple platform for the NEHA future. She wants a visible NEHA that is more **Blue**, **Green**, and **Gold**: Limitless, Sustainable, and Resourceful. The focus is on advancing people, resources, and funding. The stronger partnership connections of urban and rural, industry and government, nonprofits and academia are needed and will be the future emphasis for success for the environmental health profession. 🌱