

NEHA NEWS

Students Encouraged to Apply for Environmental Health Internships

NEHA is accepting applications for the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEPHIP). NEHA will accept over 20 environmental health interns for summer 2017, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Students from National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council-accredited undergraduate and graduate programs are eligible to apply for a 10-week internship at local, state, or tribal environmental health departments across the country. NEHA will award students a stipend of \$4,000 (\$400/week) for completing the internship. An additional stipend is available to cover the relocation costs for the internship.

Students interested in NEPHIP should apply at www.neha.org/internships by **February 13**. Interns who participated in NEPHIP last summer were involved in a wide range of activities such as studying contamination levels of surface water and groundwater, building on tracking initiatives by presenting pesticide exposures and illness information, and completing asset mapping related to sustainable environments in communities. To learn more about past student internship experiences, visit www.neha.org/professional-development/students/internship/2015-student-success-stories.

2017 HUD Secretary's Awards for Healthy Homes

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with NEHA, announce the third annual Secretary's Awards for Healthy Homes. These awards will recognize excellence in healthy housing innovation and achievement in three categories: public housing/multifamily supported housing; policy and research innovation; and cross program coordination among health, environment, and housing. The activities or policies nominated must show measurable benefits in the health of residents and be available to low- and/or moderate-income families. Applications will be open January 27 on NEHA's and HUD's Web sites and are due no later than **March 15, 11:59:59 p.m. PST**. Previous award winners are ineligible to apply. The awards will be presented at NEHA's 2017 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition (www.neha.org/aec), July 10–13, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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 two NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 45.



Faye Koeltzow

I joined NEHA in January 2016 as its business analyst. My overarching role is to take a fresh and innovative look at every business decision while also serving as the board of director's liaison, guiding the team coordinating NEHA's Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition, supervising various departments—credentialing, membership, education, human resources, and sales—as well as leading various initiatives to assure that sound business practices are followed.

I earned a bachelor of science degree in secondary education with a minor in health from Idaho State University. I was born and raised in Golden, Colorado, enjoying the wonderful outdoor recreation that Colorado affords. I worked 28 years for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 10 of which I served as the volunteer and education program manager. My proudest achievement was working with staff and volunteers to design, implement, and grow a strong volunteer program, doubling volunteer hours over a 5-year period to more than 200,000 hours. After leaving state government in April 2015, I changed gears a bit and served as a patient navigator with Colorado HealthOP, a member-directed insurance company.

Every organization needs a reevaluation period from time to time and with many needed changes taking place at NEHA, every day brings new challenges and excitement. Riding the proverbial waves with our amazing staff, members, affiliates, and various partners to move NEHA in relevant new directions is very rewarding. I look forward to interacting with many of you along the way. Thank you for your support of NEHA!



Sandra Whitehead

I began my journey to NEHA long before I was hired last January to lead the Program and Partnership Development team. I have been a member since 2008 and was a technical adviser for several years. I came to environmental health by way of land use planning, having been a local planner before spending seven years at the Florida Department of Health's central office where it was my job to create trainings

and projects in partnership with the 67 county health departments. I was privileged to create the Health and the Built Environment program in the Division of Environmental Health.

I am one half of the Washington, DC, office, and the thing I love most about my job is that no two days are ever the same. I represent NEHA at meetings with national partners and am working to create a diverse funding stream to support trainings and programs for our members. It has been gratifying to go to

meetings and have colleagues tell me how happy they are that NEHA is “finally at the table.”

As a seventh-generation Floridian, moving to Washington, DC, was a huge change, but an exciting one. I love going to museums, walking my dog near the Anacostia River, and gardening. I am an avid reader and a coffee fanatic. While DC is quite different than north Florida, my husband and I are enjoying a four-season year, picking apples in the mountains, and the advantages of big city life. We have three grown children, the youngest of whom lives with us and goes to college here. Our older children visit quite often and we are anticipating the marriage of our oldest son in March.

The most exciting project my team is working on is a needs assessment of the environmental public health workforce called

Understanding the Needs, Challenges, Opportunities, Vision, and Emerging Roles in Environmental Health (UNCOVER EH). As a first step, we are gathering information on how environmental health services are allocated to different agencies for each state. The second step is to send a survey to as many environmental health professionals at the state and local health department level to get your feedback on emerging issues and needs. This kind of assessment has not been done before and we will use the information gathered to improve our offerings and resources for you. I am excited to work with and for you, our members. Please feel free to reach out to me if you want to serve on a program committee, have feedback on programs or resources we can create to assist in your everyday work, or want to find out more about UNCOVER EH. 🐼

SUPPORT THE NEHA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

The NEHA Endowment Foundation was established to enable NEHA to do more for the environmental health profession than its annual budget might allow. Special projects and programs supported by the foundation will be carried out for the sole purpose of advancing the profession and its practitioners.

Individuals who have contributed to the foundation are listed below by club category. These listings are based on what people have actually donated to the foundation—not what they have pledged. Names will be published under the appropriate category for one year; additional contributions will move individuals to a different category in the following year(s). For each of the categories, there are a number of ways NEHA recognizes and thanks contributors to the foundation. If you are interested in contributing to the Endowment Foundation, please call NEHA at 303.756.9090. You can also donate online at www.neha.org/donate.

Thank you.

DELEGATE CLUB (\$25–\$99)

Name in the Journal for one year and endowment pin.

Richard W. Mitzelfelt
Edgewood, NM

HONORARY MEMBERS CLUB

(\$100–\$499)

Letter from the NEHA president, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.

Tim Hatch, MPA, REHS
Montgomery, AL

Adam E. London, RS, MPA
Grand Rapids, MI

Larry Ramdin, REHS, CP-FS, HHS
Salem, MA

Ned Therien, MPH
Olympia, WA

21st CENTURY CLUB

(\$500–\$999)

Name submitted in drawing for a free one-year NEHA membership, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.

Bob Custard, REHS, CP-FS
Lovettsville, VA

David T. Dyjack, DrPH, CIH
Denver, CO

Bette J. Packer
Ham Lake, MN

Peter M. Schmitt
Shakopee, MN

LCDR James Speckhart, MS
Silver Spring, MD

SUSTAINING MEMBERS CLUB

(\$1,000–\$2,499)

Name submitted in drawing for a free two-year NEHA membership, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.

James J. Balsamo, Jr., MS, MPH, MHA, RS, CP-FS
Metairie, LA

Gavin F. Burdge
Lemoyne, PA

George A. Morris, RS
Dousman, WI

AFFILIATES CLUB

(\$2,500–\$4,999)

Name submitted in drawing for a free AEC registration, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.

Vince Radke, MPH, REHS, CP-FS, DAAS, CPH
Atlanta, GA

EXECUTIVE CLUB AND ABOVE

(\$5,000–\$100,000)

Special invitation to the AEC President's Reception, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.