

IN MEMORIAM

Carolyn Hester Harvey

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) was saddened to learn that Carolyn Hester Harvey, MS, PhD, RS, CIH, CHMM, passed away on October 3, 2020. A pioneer and leader, Dr. Harvey's career in environmental health, industrial hygiene, and public health spanned over 50 years. She had over 30 years of professional experience working in the field before moving into academia where she shared her rich knowledge.

Dr. Harvey began her career in academia in 1996 at East Tennessee State University. She joined the Department of Environmental Health Science (EHS) and Medical Laboratory Science faculty at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in 2001. At EKU she directed the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program from 2009–2014, held the full professor's rank, and became department chair. Dr. Harvey retired from active teaching at EKU on January 1, 2017, and served as a faculty emeritus and adjunct faculty until her passing. One of Dr. Harvey's lasting legacies is her positive influence on students and in the development of young emerging professionals. She also contributed to the furthering of the profession through the publication of several articles and numerous presentations.

Further notable legacies are Dr. Harvey's leadership within the profession and volunteerism within numerous organizations. She was a member of NEHA for almost 25 years. She served as NEHA president from 2014–2015 and provided unsurpassed leadership during that time as the association searched for a new executive director. She also was a technical editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health* since 2011. Dr. Harvey was a founding member, president, and a board member of the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs; a diplomate of the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS); and a member of numerous professional organizations including the Kentucky Environmental Health Association, National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council, and American Public Health Association. She was also a founding member of the National Council on Diversity in Environmental Health.

Dr. Harvey was honored with numerous awards during her career. Most notably she was the 2020 recipient of the prestigious Walter S. Mangold Award, NEHA's highest honor. "Dr. Harvey's professionalism, numerous individual achievements, contributions made toward improving our profession, her active involvement in NEHA and state associations, and the professional positions she has held, coupled with her education, made her most worthy and deserving of being recognized as this year's Mangold Award recipient," stated CAPT Craig Shepherd, 2020 Mangold Award Committee chair.

The following quotes from coworkers, colleagues, and former students provide rich insight into Dr. Harvey's true impact on the people who knew her and the profession as a whole.

"As a new faculty member, Dr. Harvey assisted me in numerous ways while becoming family. She made me a part of the NEHA family by introducing me to so many legends in the field. I would



Dr. Carolyn Harvey receives the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Outgoing President's Award from Bob Custard at the NEHA 2015 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition.

not be in my leadership position at NEHA without her encouragement, guidance, and unwavering support. I will miss her each and every day. She was my partner in crime and we had so many wonderful adventures together," Dr. D. Gary Brown, EKU professor and NEHA first vice-president.

"At every opportunity, Dr. Harvey mentored and inspired students and aspiring professionals. It was truly an honor to serve on NEHA's board with her. She was an impressive leader with magnificent fortitude; she always remained focused on the best interest of the organization and the environmental health profession. She had an admirable spirit of giving. Dr. Harvey was a hero, a true professional, a role model, and a person of the highest integrity. We built a lifelong trusting relationship, both professionally and personally. We recently spoke about the importance of doing things that bring us joy. I miss her dearly and am eternally grateful for our friendship," Alicia Collins, NEHA past president.

"With the passing of Dr. Harvey, we have at once lost a beautiful mind and a beautiful, character-filled person. All of us are eternally grateful for her commitment, professionalism, and wicked sense of humor," Dr. David Dyjack, NEHA executive director.

"Dr. Harvey will be deeply missed but never forgotten. She was a friend of our family, a colleague in our academic endeavors, a fellow NEHA past president, and an exemplary model of humanity and professionalism," Dr and Mrs. Amer El-Ahraf, NEHA past president.

"She was a legend and a pioneer in our field and she blazed a trail that I and many others, before and after me, followed to success. She was not only my professor, mentor, and friend, she was family. There will never be another like her," DaJuane Harris, former student.

"Dr. Harvey was one of the strongest, most influential women I have ever known. She came into my life at a pivotal moment and completely changed my trajectory. She was warm and inviting, yet

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had a no-nonsense personality that challenged those around her and made people work harder and want to do and be better. She never met a stranger and always had a way of making those around her feel loved and important. She was quick witted, sharp as a tack, said whatever was on her mind, had the ability to get things done, and fought for what she believed in. I know I would not be where I am today without her love and guidance over the years. I will be forever thankful for my time with her and I hope that I can help carry on her legacy in my continued work with students and this profession,” Jaime Hisel, ECU faculty.

“I would not have found the EHS/MPH program if it was not for her. She was an amazing woman. It’s heartbreaking that we cannot hear one more joke from her. I loved her laugh and how she always laughed at her own jokes,” Blake Johnson, former student.

“It is sad that we have lost such a fine human being, environmental health practitioner, and educator,” Dr. and Mrs. Hank Korem, retired professor.

“It was a blessing to learn from her—such a strong professional woman that so many of us tried to model. She truly left her mark on us and that continues to spread as we mentor others moving up in the field. I will miss her no-nonsense approach and assertiveness, her heart of gold, and her knowledge that seemed endless,” Courtney Lewis, past student.

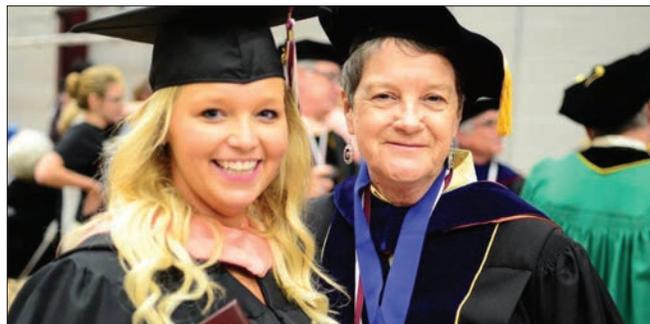
“Beyond being a trailblazer for so many, Dr. Harvey also believed in providing students and many others with opportunities. She knew the purpose underlying our profession offered so much inspiration that it could improve lives, careers, and future generations. She treated everyone like family with her heart of gold, and her pure and polished character conveyed authenticity, no-nonsense, genuine grace, and love for all people,” Dr. Jason Marion, ECU professor.

“Dr Carolyn Harvey was a friend, colleague, dedicated environmental health professional, and humble servant leader who touched many lives in many ways. She always gave her best and made us all better people. Her tireless contributions and giving spirit will have a lasting impact on ECU, NEHA, AAS, and across the environmental health community,” Dr. Wendell A. Moore, retired colonel.

“Dr Harvey was a leader, a woman that I looked up to and aspired to be in this field. I would not be where I am today without her,” Tori Nasrallah Sparks, former student.

“Carolyn’s passing is both a deeply personal and professional loss. She set THE example for all of us in the gentle way she valued young aspiring professionals, her unwavering dedication to our profession as mentor and teacher, and her demonstration of leadership and commitment,” Dr. Robert Powitz, Mangold Award winner.

“Dr. Harvey was the consummate environment health professional. She was a leader, practitioner, and academician. We shared many glasses of wine over the years. I will miss my environmental health colleague,” Vince Radke, NEHA past president.



For over 20 years, Dr. Carolyn Harvey was a passionate supporter, teacher, mentor, and friend to countless environmental health students.

“If it were not for Dr. Harvey, I would have not graduated. Dr. Harvey took me in with open arms and her world-famous charisma and kindness put my mind at ease and reassured me that I was making the right choice. Without her I wouldn’t have been close to the position in life I am in now. I have not done enough but I am not done. I hope to continue and develop myself into a leader for the industry like she was,” Daniel Rennaker, former student.

“Long after my graduation from ECU, Dr. Harvey remained available to provide sound career and technical advice, as well as friendly encouragement. She will be greatly missed by many,” Dr. Troy Ritter, former student.

“I was truly blessed to have worked with Dr. Harvey throughout my time at NEHA. Her wisdom, leadership, grace, heart, and tenacity made an impression on me and shaped my career. She was my role model, as I’m sure she was for countless others. In this sadness, however, I do find joy as I know her legacy will live on through the work and lives of those that she touched,” Kristen Ruby-Cisneros, NEHA staff.

“Dr. Harvey always exhibited exuberance, enthusiasm, and warmth in everything she did. She was a real people person,” Webster “Webb” Young, Jr., retired rear admiral.

NEHA extends its deepest sympathies to Dr. Harvey’s family, friends, and colleagues. Her memory will indelibly be a part of the environmental health profession’s history through the knowledge, leadership, mentorship, and friendship she so willingly gave. She will be missed tremendously. 🙏

Editor’s Note: We thank the individuals who provided quotes and information regarding the life of Dr. Carolyn Harvey, as well as the organizations that provided biographical information. If you would like to share information about the passing of an environmental health professional to be mentioned in a future In Memoriam, please contact Kristen Ruby-Cisneros at kruby@neha.org. The *Journal* will publish the In Memoriam section twice a year in the June and December issues, or in other issues as determined appropriate.