

# The Preventive Measure

SPRING 2018  
Volume 19, Issue 2



## 2018 Leadership

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After three wonderful months at home with my beautiful little boy, I am ready to get back to work. I am so grateful for Laura Wildey who stepped in as Acting President and the Board for holding down the fort while I was gone. I was thrilled to hear that our Winter Conference was successful and well-attended at the new Arlington, VA location. I was also thankful that inclement weather was not a factor as it has been in the past.

With Spring around the corner, it is time for our next educational conference which is to be held in **Washington D.C. on April 27th, 2018**. Presentation topics at this conference include: **Medical Marijuana, Food Defense/Vulnerability Assessments, Pool Safety, Pest/Rodent Abatement, and more**. Also, since we have had some changes in the Board and as suggested by some of our members, we plan on hosting a Meet and Greet at this conference so you can get to know your Board members. I hope that you'll be able to join us! For more information on our presentations, the agenda for this conference may be found on Page 2.

In NCAEHA news, we are hosting the REHS/RS and CP-FS exams on March 30th, 2018. We are working to offer these exams every two years so if you are interested in sitting for either exam, get ready, as we will offer them again in the Spring of 2020. We are also offering the **Certified Pool Operator Course** with an exam on **May 10th - 11th, 2018** at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, Alexandria, VA. This course not only provides classroom training, but allows attendees to tour a water recreational facility and see a pump room first-hand. Please RSVP to Isaac Robertson, our Vice President of Programs and Professional Advancement, at **NCAEHA.VP.Programs@gmail.com** if interested. If you have thoughts on other continuing education or credentialing opportunities that you would like NCAEHA to provide, please let Isaac know as well.

We also plan on hosting more social and educational networking opportunities, so keep a look out for those. If you have any ideas on networking opportunities, please let Laura Wildey, our Vice President of Membership, know at **NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com**. We will continue to develop training and networking opportunities for our members throughout the year.

Don't forget to submit your applications for the **2018 Jerrold M. Michael Award, James M. Wordsworth, and NEHA Certificate of Merit (Team and Individual)**. Applications can be found on Pages 8-10 and are **due by May 15, 2018**.

Finally, if you are interested in being involved in NCAEHA, please let me know! We are currently forming our Awards Committee and Social Committee. We would be happy to have you on board. I look forward to seeing you on April 27th for another informative conference. As always, please let myself or any member of the Board know of any thoughts or suggestions you may have on how we may better serve you.



[www.NCAEHA.com](http://www.NCAEHA.com)



[Facebook.com/NCAEHA](https://www.facebook.com/NCAEHA)



[Twitter.com/NCAEHA](https://twitter.com/NCAEHA)

Best Regards, *Kristen Pybus*

**NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

# **Spring Educational Conference**

# **April 27, 2018**

**899 N CAPITOL ST NE, WASHINGTON DC 20002**



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**FEATURING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

**Food Defense and Vulnerability Assessments**

**Local Foodborne Illness Outbreak**

**Medical Marijuana**

**Pest and Rodent Abatement**

**Pool Safety**

**RSVP TO:**

**[NCAEHA.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.Secretary@gmail.com)**

**CONFERENCE FEE: MEMBERS-\$15.00 / NON-MEMBERS-\$30.00**



Interested in becoming  
a Certified Pool  
Operator?

BROUGHT TO YOU BY NCAEHA:

# Pool Operator Training Course

## MAY 10 - MAY 11, 2018

CHINQUAPIN PARK RECREATION CENTER  
3210 KING ST  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302



Register  
now to attend  
our CPO training!

\$120 COVERS BOOK, EXAM, CERTIFICATION FEES  
REGISTER WITH V.P. OF PROGRAMS, ISAAC ROBERTSON:  
NCAEHA.VP.PROGRAMS@GMAIL.COM  
RSVP BY APRIL 30, 2018

NCAEHA

provides

opportunities for practitioners and

other

professionals in

Environmental

Health to advance

their professional

growth through

educational

programs.

The Association

encourages

cooperation

between private and public sectors

in activities

directed toward the improvement

of public health

and the

environment.

# Capturing Data on Contributing Factors to Outbreaks With the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System

CDR Adam Kramer, MPH, ScD, RS, CFS

Maggie Byrne

Elaine Curtiss, MEd

CDC, Environmental Health Services Branch - March 2018

Every year, roughly 1 in 6 Americans (48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2016). Furthermore, more than half of all foodborne illness outbreaks in the U.S. are associated with restaurants (CDC, 2017). During outbreak investigations, environmental health and food safety staff conduct environmental assessments that identify contributing factors to help us learn how pathogens are spread in the environment. Data on contributing factors to outbreaks are critical to outbreak prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) is a surveillance system that captures environmental assessment data, including information about contributing factors.

## What Are Contributing Factors?

In food safety, contributing factors are food preparation practices that lead to food getting contaminated, or that lead to pathogens growing or surviving in food. CDC identified 32 contributing factors and they fall into three types: contamination, proliferation, and survival (**Figure 1**).

The top contributing factors for NEARS-reported outbreaks in restaurants are when

- sick food workers contaminate ready-to-eat food through bare hand contact;
- sick food workers contaminate food through a method other than hand contact, such as with a contaminated utensil;
- sick food workers contaminate ready-to-eat food through glove-hand contact, such as touching a raw hamburger with gloves on and then touching the bun with the contaminated gloves; and
- food handling practices lead to growth of pathogens, such as food not kept cold enough.

## What Does NEARS Data Tell Us About Contributing Factors?

Contributing factors were identified for 194 of 297 (3 out of every 5) outbreaks reported to NEARS during 2009–2013 from 11 participating jurisdictions (Brown, Hoover, Selman, Coleman, & Rogers, 2017). Contributing factors were more likely to be identified for outbreaks if

- the pathogen linked to the outbreak was known,
- the outbreak establishment prepared all meals on site,
- the outbreak establishment served more meals daily,
- investigators quickly (within a day of learning about the outbreak) contacted the establishment thought to be linked with an outbreak to schedule their assessment visit, or
- investigators made multiple visits to the outbreak establishment to complete their assessment.

Timely and complete outbreak assessments are important to identifying contributing factors. These findings highlight the need for strong environmental health and food safety programs with the capacity to complete such assessments.

## How Can State and Local Food Regulatory Programs Identify Contributing Factors?

To identify contributing factors for foodborne illness outbreaks, environmental health and food safety staff should

- use their knowledge about the pathogen linked to the outbreak to guide their environmental assessment (e.g., if hepatitis A is the suspected pathogen, the investigator would seek information on whether food workers were sick and their food handling practices);
- conduct their assessment as soon as they learn of a potential outbreak; and
- conduct a complete assessment that might require multiple visits to the outbreak establishment.

In addition, investigators can take CDC's free, interactive training on conducting environmental assessments (**Figure 2**). This training covers key activities of environmental assessments such as

- interviewing kitchen managers and food workers;
- observing how restaurants prepare food (e.g., food temperatures);
- reviewing or collecting records (e.g., records of food cooking temperatures and trace back records); and
- sampling for pathogens in the restaurant kitchen.

### Is Your Program Registered for NEARS?

NEARS is available for all state, local, tribal, and territorial food safety and environmental health programs (**Figure 3**). Participants provide critical data from environmental assessments to prevent and reduce future outbreaks. Your program can access and use your NEARS data at any time to

- identify environmental causes of outbreaks in your jurisdiction,
- take follow-up action to reduce or prevent future foodborne illness outbreaks,
- develop or modify program policies or regulations, and
- help your program meet the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards.

CDC and its national food safety partners use NEARS to analyze standardized data to understand how and why outbreaks occur and share findings to better respond to outbreaks and prevent future ones. In addition, regulatory agencies such as FDA use information from NEARS to develop intervention strategies and recommended regulations such as the Food Code. CDC and national food safety partners recommend that all food safety programs use NEARS to improve food safety in the U.S. To learn more about NEARS, contributing factors, and environmental assessments, visit [www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/nears](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/nears).

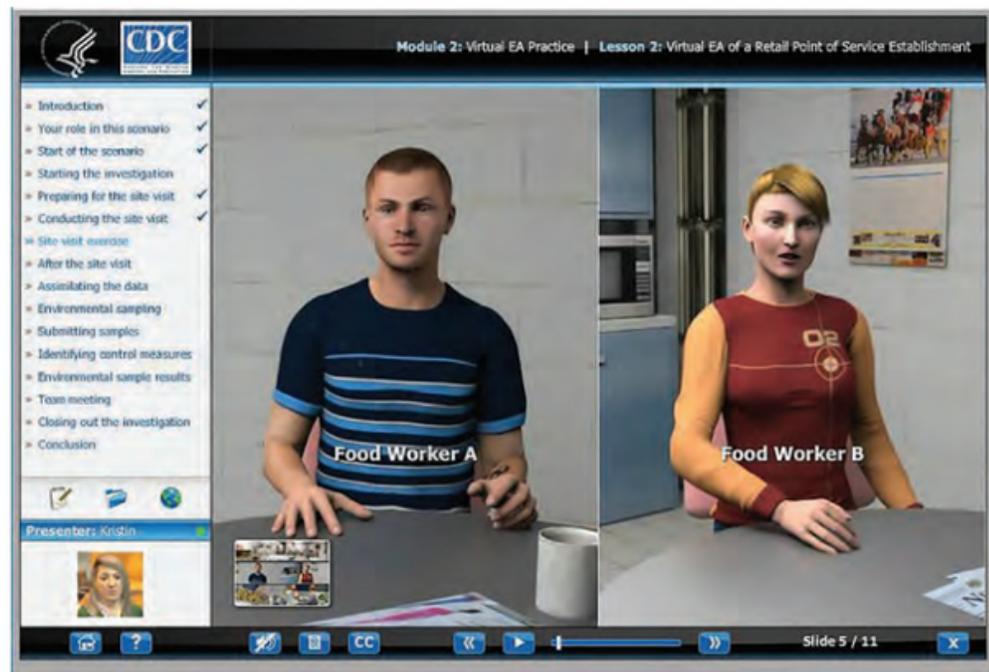
FIGURE 1

### The Three Types of Contributing Factors

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	FOOD PREPARATION PRACTICES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO	FOR EXAMPLE
<b>Contamination</b>	Pathogens and other hazards getting into food	A sick food worker handles food with their bare hands
<b>Proliferation</b>	Pathogens in food growing faster	Food is held in a refrigerator that is too warm
<b>Survival</b>	Pathogens surviving process to kill or reduce them	Food is not cooked long enough or to a hot enough temperature

FIGURE 2

### Environmental Assessment Training Screenshot of an Interview With Food Workers



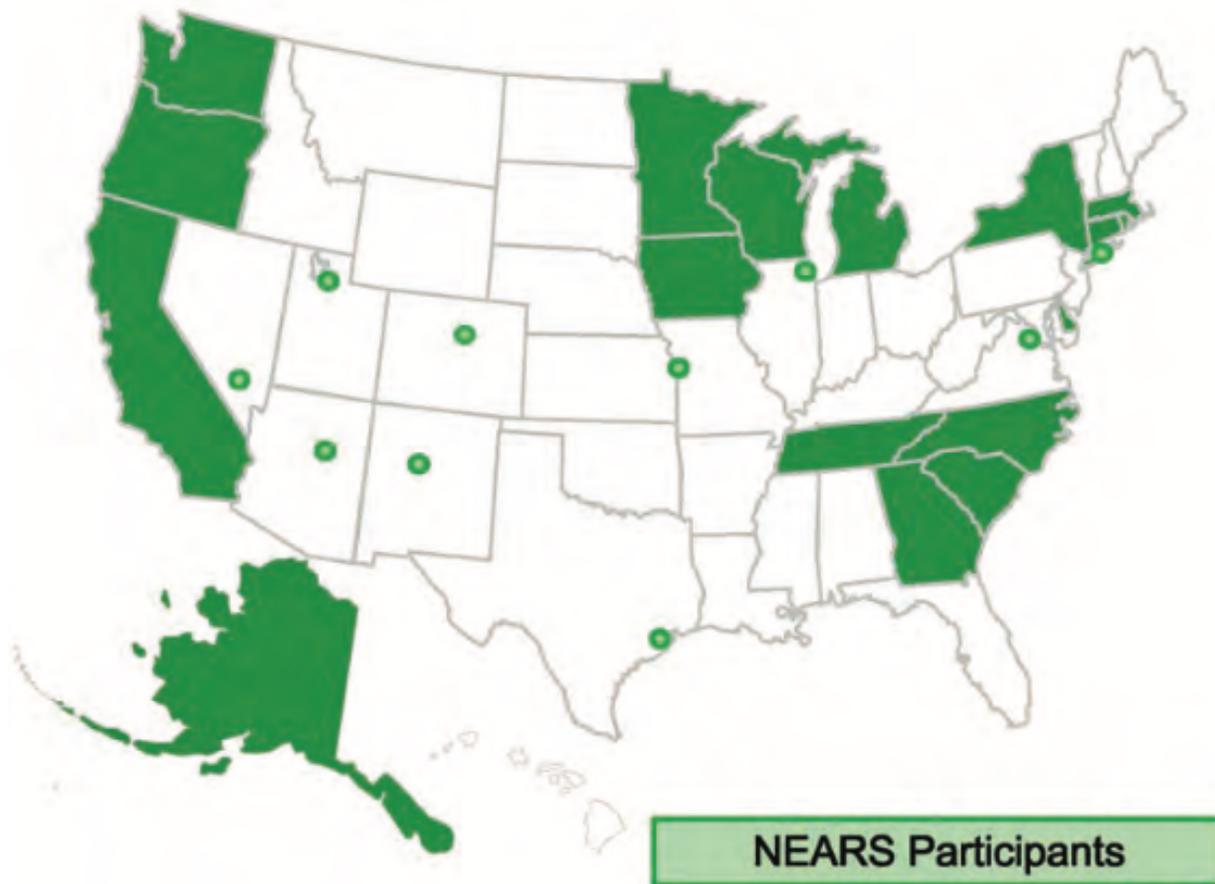
See Figure 3 on the next page.

### Corresponding Author:

Jill M. Shugart, Emergency Preparedness and Response Office, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, MS E-20, Atlanta, GA 30329. E-mail: [jshugart@cdc.gov](mailto:jshugart@cdc.gov).

FIGURE 3

### National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) Participants as of December 2017



Participating state agencies: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; California Department of Public Health; Connecticut Department of Public Health; Delaware Division of Public Health; Georgia Department of Public Health; Iowa Department of Public Health; Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Minnesota Department of Health; New York State Department of Health; North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Oregon Health Authority; Rhode Island Department of Health; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Tennessee Department of Health; Washington State Department of Health; and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

Participating local agencies: Albuquerque Environmental Health Department (New Mexico); Chicago Department of Public Health (Illinois); Coconino County Public Health Services District (Arizona); Davis County Health Department (Utah); Fairfax County Health Department (Virginia); Harris County Health Department (Texas); Jefferson County Public Health (Colorado); Kansas City Health Department (Missouri); New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (New York); and Southern Nevada Health District (Nevada).

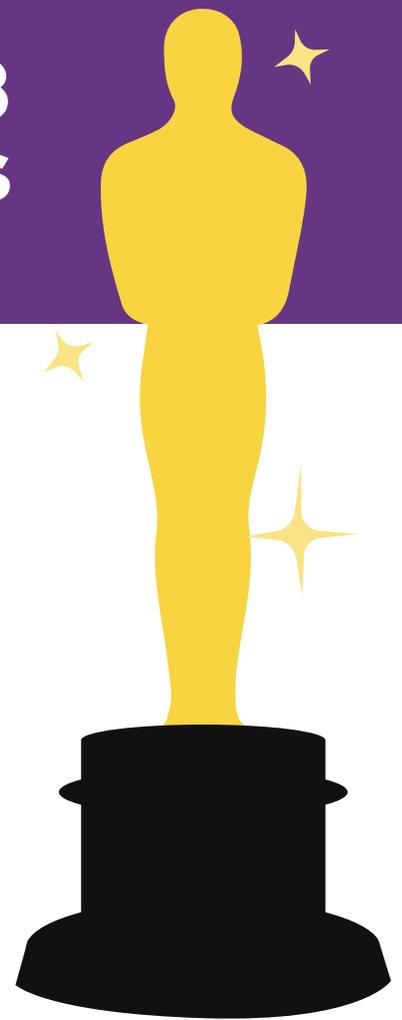
#### References:

Brown, L.G., Hoover, E.R., Selman, C.A., Coleman, E.W., & Rogers, H.S. (2017). Out-break characteristics associated with identification of contributing factors to foodborne illness outbreaks. *Epidemiology and Infection*, 145(11), 2254–2262. Retrieved from [www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/contributing-factors.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/contributing-factors.pdf)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Burden of foodborne illness: Findings. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/foodborneburden/2011-foodborne-estimates.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Surveillance for foodborne disease outbreaks, United States, 2015: Annual report. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/pdfs/2015-FoodBorneOutbreaks\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/pdfs/2015-FoodBorneOutbreaks_508.pdf)

# NCAEHA 2018 Scholarship and Awards



## James M. Wordsworth Scholarship

The NCAEHA James M. Wordsworth Scholarship program was established to encourage early commitment by students to a career in environmental health and to stimulate professional growth in current environmental health professionals in pursuing graduate or postgraduate studies in environmental health sciences and/or public health. Applications with original documentation must be received by May 15, 2018.

See page 8 for the application.

## Jerrold M. Michael Award

Do you know of a professional who has contributed greatly to the environmental health profession? If so, nominate the individual for the 2015 Jerrold M. Michael Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award by May 15, 2018.

See page 9 for the application.

## Certificate of Merit Nomination

Each affiliate is invited to designate one of its members or team members to receive a Certificate of Merit from NEHA, thereby nationally recognizing one of their own for outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. Nominate an environmental health professional for the INDIVIDUAL Award or a group of professionals for the TEAM Award by submitting a summary of their achievements by May 15, 2018. Recipients are announced during the AEC awards program and in the Journal of Environmental Health.

See page 10 for the application.

Submit applications and necessary supporting documentation to:  
[NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com)



# National Capital Area Environmental Health Association

## James M. Wordsworth Scholarship Application

**About the award:** James Wordsworth has been a long standing restaurateur and advocate for the work Environmental Health Professionals do to help keep the public safe. Mr. Wordsworth is an Honorary Lifetime Member of NCAEHA and every year helps make a scholarship available to a candidate that is seeking higher education in a field related to Environmental Health.

1. Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
5. E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you an active member of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)? YES / NO
7. Are you an active member of the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association (NCAEHA)? YES / NO
8. Education (list most current first):

School	Major	Dates	Degree
1.			
2.			
3.			

Year and date of expected graduation from current program: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Employment history (list present employer first):

Employer	Job Title	Years Employed
1.		
2.		
3.		

10. Write a short summary of your professional achievements, including any major contributions you have made that resulted in the increased protection of human health and the environment. (Not to exceed one type written page, attach additional page if necessary)

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11. List civic groups and other community activities of which you are a member. Also, note any special honors received. (Attach additional page if necessary)

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12. Provide one letter of recommendation from either the school in which you are currently enrolled, an active NCAEHA member, or a current or past supervisor

**Send completed application by May 15, 2018 to: Laura Wildey at [NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com)**



**National Capital Area Environmental Health Association  
Nomination Form for: Jerrold M. Michael Award  
(Environmental Health Professional of the Year)**

***About the award:** Jerrold Michael was the Founding President of NCAEHA. He was a true leader and pioneer in the field of Environmental Health. This award is to recognize a professional in the field of environmental health that has contributed to his or her employer's environmental health mission, to the goals of the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association, and to the advancement of the environmental health profession.*

**NOMINATED BY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINEE:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a brief (one page or less) explanation of the reasons you believe that the above named individual should be selected as this year's **Jerrold M. Michael Award** recipient. Specifically describe how this person has contributed to his or her employer's environmental health mission, to the goals of the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association, and to the advancement of the environmental health profession.

**THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE MAY CONTACT YOU FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

Nominations may be sent either by postal service or email to the NCAEHA  
and must be received by **May 15, 2018**.

Send complete nominations to:

**Laura Wildey**

NCAEHA Vice President of Membership  
**NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com**



**National Capital Area Environmental Health Association  
Nomination Form for: NEHA Certificate of Merit Award  
For Individual or Team**



***About the award:*** Each year at the NEHA Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition (AEC), NEHA recognizes an individual or team, from each of its Affiliates, who has made outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. It is one of the benefits of your affiliation with NEHA and your local Affiliate chapter. This is a National recognition.

**NOMINATED BY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINEE:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a brief (one page or less) explanation of the reasons you believe that the above named individual or team should be selected as this year's **Certificate of Merit Award** recipient. Specifically describe how this person or team has contributed to the field of Environmental Health.

**THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE MAY CONTACT YOU FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

Nominations may be sent either by postal service or email to the NCAEHA and must be received by **May 15, 2018**.

Send complete nominations to:

**Laura Wildey**

NCAEHA Vice President of Membership  
**NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com**



# Welcome to the NCAEHA Team Other Highlights

## Michelle Wilson - MD Representative

Michelle is a native of Atlanta, GA who first discovered her love for the capital area while attending Howard University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Upon graduation, Michelle relocated to Atlanta where she first explored her passion for Environmental Health as a Vector Control intern with the DeKalb County Board of Health. After which, she joined their Environmental Health team as an EHS I with her specialization in Food Safety and Tourist Accommodations. During her 5-year tenure with DCBOH, she facilitated and focused on on-site and food safety certification trainings as well as community outreach as their Food Safety Educator/ EHS III. Deciding to leave the Atlanta area, she joined Ecolab's food safety and quality assurance division, EcoSure. For 2.5 years she traveled the continental United States as their Food Safety and Brand Standards Specialist based out of the Maryland region. In February 2017, deciding to return to regulatory roots, she joined the Alexandria Health Department, and is currently an EHS Sr., where she is excited in becoming an integral contributor to their Environmental Health division. As the Maryland Representative for the Capital Area Environmental Health Association, Michelle desires to increase the participation of Maryland Environmental Health Specialists and Sanitarians, using a new and broad based approach to be inclusive of all areas in Environmental Health.

[NCAEHA.MD.Rep@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.MD.Rep@gmail.com)

## Lanita Carpenter - DC Representative

Lanita is a sanitarian with the District of Columbia Department of Health's Food Safety & Hygiene Inspection services Division (FSHISD). She is originally from Orlando, Florida, where she enlisted into the US Air Force as a Public Health Technician, conducting food safety inspections and doing public health work abroad and stateside for 7 years. She obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Sciences with a concentration in Environmental health Studies from Trident University. Lanita comes with a wealth of experience as a Virginia Department of Health standardized Environmental Health Specialist previously serving Arlington, County Virginia.

[NCAEHA.DC.Rep@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.DC.Rep@gmail.com)

## Winter Educational Conference



The Winter Conference was successfully held at the Fairlington Community Center (Arlington, VA) in January 2018. Attendees got to hear from presenters from JasperYeast, FDA CFSAN, NEHA, Arlington County Health Department, VA Department of ABC, and Fairfax County Health Department. Thank you to Arlington County Health Department for hosting and to NSF for sponsoring our morning break!



# JOIN NCAEHA



## WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER?

- ✓ **Be a part of a local association in the DC, MD, and VA area that is focused on environmental health (EH)**
- ✓ **Network with other local EH professionals in academia, industry, government, private sector, and other areas**
- ✓ **Advance your career by pursuing a credential or certification with our discounted annual courses like the REHS, CP-FS, CPO, and more**
- ✓ **Gain more knowledge and/or earn up to 15 Continuing Education hours per year by attending our nearby Educational Conferences**
- ✓ **Enjoy a good time with your EH colleagues and build new connections at our social events**
- ✓ **Recognize an EH professional by nominating them for an award or scholarship**
- ✓ **Pursue local EH employment opportunities with easy accessibility through our announcements**
- ✓ **Stay updated through our newsletter, website, and social media and announcements on other events, trainings, webinars, and more**



# National Capital Area Environmental Health Association

*Serving Washington D.C., Northern Virginia, and Maryland*

## Application for Membership 2018

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

(Select One) Local Government \_\_\_\_\_ Academia \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ State Government \_\_\_\_\_  
Industry \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Government \_\_\_\_\_ Private Consultant \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP & CREDENTIALS:** NEHA Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Check current credentials held:

\_\_\_\_\_ REHS/RS (Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian)

\_\_\_\_\_ CP-FS (Certified Professional – Food Safety)

\_\_\_\_\_ CEHT (Certified Environmental Health Technician)

\_\_\_\_\_ RET (Registered Environmental Technician)

\_\_\_\_\_ RHSP (Registered Hazardous Substances Professional)

\_\_\_\_\_ RHSS (Registered Hazardous Substances Specialist)

### CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP (Select One)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Regular** (\$20) Any person who is actively employed or interested in the field of Environmental Health and has paid current dues; current NEHA Regional Vice President
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Student** (\$5) Any full-time student working towards a degree in Environmental Health or related field and has paid current dues
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Silver** (\$5) Retiree from active employment in the field of Environmental Health and has paid current dues
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Honorary Lifetime** (\$0) Past Jerrold M. Michael Award recipients; any person for unusually distinguished achievement or service in the Environmental Health field as determined and voted upon by the Board of Directors; Past NCAEHA Presidents
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Supporting** (Charitable Donation) Any company, corporation or association with a general interest in and desire to contribute to the objectives of the Association

Email completed applications to: Laura Wildey at [NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com)

For membership dues, you may request an invoice via email or mail your check to:

Victoria Griffith, NCAEHA Treasurer  
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #361  
Washington, DC 20006