

NEHA NEWS

Starting Off With Impact: The NEHA 2017 AEC Keynote and Opening Session

By Kristie Denbrock (kdenbrock@neha.org)

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-Michigan) deliver the NEHA 2017 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition Keynote on Monday, July 10 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Representative Lawrence, a champion of environmental health, recently reintroduced the Environmental Health Workforce Act bill on April 5, 2017. The bill ensures that there is a consistent set of guidelines and standards for training and education of environmental health professionals across the nation.

"Every American deserves the right to safe drinking water, clean air to breathe, and a healthy community to raise their children," stated Representative Lawrence. "This legislation will provide a roadmap to rebuilding the local public health workforce, restore our faith in government, and renew our commitment to our children's quality of life."

Following Representative Lawrence's keynote presentation will be our Opening Session—Aiming for Equity—with Renée Branch Canady, MPA, PhD, chief executive officer of the Michigan Public Health Institute, leading a panel of experts to discuss present day issues in environmental justice.

Joining Dr. Canady on the panel will be Dr. Pamela Pugh, public health advisor for the City of Flint; Dr. Marcus Cheatham, health officer for the Mid-Michigan District Health Department; and Ponsella Hardaway, executive director of Detroit's Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) organization.

This interactive panel will focus on fair treatment and opportunities for individuals to participate in discussions and to contribute to activities that can affect environmental health in their communities

Let your voice be heard in the fair environmental health treatment of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—join us for our exciting 2017 AEC Keynote and Opening Session. More information about the 2017 AEC can be found at www.neha.org/aec.

NEHA's New Legal Epidemiology Webinar Series

By Ellen Cornelius (programs@neha.org)

Laws and policies are essential to environmental health issues. In fact, one can make a case that every one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) greatest public health achievements of the 20th century can be attributed in part to legal interventions (Burris, Ashe, Levin, Penn, & Larkin, 2016). Over this summer, NEHA has made the somewhat elusive and politically charged topic of policy and health accessible to its local environmental health practitioners by hosting parts 1 and 2 of the Legal Epidemiology Webinar Series.

Legal epidemiology is an emerging field that blends the practice of developing and implementing health laws with the scien-

tific evaluation of how laws can affect health. By partnering with CDC's Public Health Law Program, NEHA exposed its local environmental health member base to this relevant, yet mysterious, topic. Using legal epidemiology principles and methods allows environmental health professionals to assess their own local laws and policies and use that information for evaluation and future program planning.

The first webinar held in May focused on a broad introduction to legal epidemiology and described how it could be used as a tool when advancing from data to policy. The second webinar brought a technical focus to the series and provided applied legal epidemiology examples. Both webinars, presentation slides, and presenter information are available for free on NEHA's website at www.neha.org/legal-epidemiology.

You can register for the third and final webinar of the series, A Tool for Addressing Health in All Policies, being held on August 16 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. NEHA's Dr. Sandra Whitehead will be speaking about Health in All Policies implementation at the local level. Learn more about legal epidemiology and register for the webinar at www.neha.org/legal-epidemiology.

Reference

Burris, S., Ashe, M., Levin, D., Penn, M., & Larkin, M. (2016). A transdisciplinary approach to public health law: The emerging practice of legal epidemiology. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 37, 135–148. Retrieved from <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021841>

NEHA Staff Profile

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their one-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 one NEHA staff member. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 49.



Seth Arends

I graduated from the Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2014 earning a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in communication design. My career began at a small design firm, Ellen Bruss Design, located here in Denver. It was there that I began to translate my abilities into a professional atmosphere. That was the first time in my life where I was compensated while performing tasks I'm truly passionate about. It was an unfamiliar, liberating, and addictive feeling that forever changed my professional life.

After getting some wind under my wings, I began to attract more freelance clients for both print and web design. For 18 months, I

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created nearly any kind of branding collateral imaginable, from chap stick labels, logos, and commercial brochures to full-scale, interactive web destinations. But as freelancing gradually became a financial feast or famine situation each month, I began to search for a more secure position.

As an artist, I was satisfying my hunger for ideas, but not my hunger for meaning. In a perfect world, I could develop fantastic work that could contribute toward positive change in the world and in my own community. I not only wanted to create but also wanted to make a difference and feel good about the day's work. I applied to various nonprofit organizations and specific educa-

tional design positions—any destination I felt I could add value and enjoy the work. In a series of fortunate events, I was eventually hired by NEHA as its graphic designer.

Working at NEHA has been a dream realized. I get my feet wet working in many design facets such as illustration, infographics, advertising, typography, photography, interactive design, and even animation, which means that the work is engaging. Considering the political climate, the public is in dire need of organizations such as NEHA, and being a part of that is rewarding. NEHA has provided a platform for me to development as a designer and the future is bright with many exciting projects on the horizon. 🐼

Did You Know?

NEHA offers different membership options to suit your professional needs. From students and those just starting the profession all the way up to those retiring, NEHA has a membership for everyone. And you can select multiple year options and how you want to receive the *Journal*. Visit www.neha.org/membership-communities/join for more information.

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different things about what we do. How could they not? NEHA member Ken Runkle recently penned a blog on LinkedIn titled “What’s Wrong With Environmental Health?” I encourage you to read his short article. Ken describes how many of us don’t prioritize using the term environmental health as our primary skill set, even among ourselves.

NEHA has retained an ad agency, 3 Advertising (www.3advertising.com), to assist us in thinking through these and other related issues as we aim to promote, protect, and enhance the profession. We hope their preliminary efforts will be complete by the time of our 2017 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition, and that we might possess the intellectual embryo that will give rise to new approaches to consistently communicate among ourselves and the world around us.

If you want to weigh-in or learn more about the state of the profession, I encourage you to attend our 2017 AEC in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on July 10–13. The theme this year—Local Solutions. National Influence—will explore the profoundly local nature of the profession and how we might use our collective influence to improve the health of the

TABLE 1

Emerged or Emerging Environmental Health Challenges

Dr. Tom Burke: Wicked National Environmental Health Problems	Josh Dugas and Steve Van Stockum: California Environmental Health Challenges
Fracking	Assisted living facilities
Infectious diseases (Ebola, <i>Legionella</i>)	Sustainability
Pesticides	Day camps
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Graywater/blackwater
Environmental justice	Marijuana edibles
Air pollution	Home restaurants
Water resources	Groundwater
Agriculture	Organics management (waste food)
Climate	Climate
Wastewater infrastructure	Septic systems

nation. NEHA staff has assembled thought leaders, influencers, and subject matter experts in Grand Rapids, a town known for its walkability, accessibility, and family-friendly environment. Our opening and closing panel sessions will showcase fresh faces and have been designed to address some of the most important issues of our time: environmental health equity and sustainability.

I look forward to seeing you there, in part to discuss how we might begin the journey of reassembling the fragmented state of the environmental health profession. 🐼



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