

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, the National Environmental Health Association (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 47.

Allison Schneider



I joined NEHA in October 2017 through the Public Health Associate Program, a training program run through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. My main role at NEHA is to expand our work in private water by building capacity for environmental health professionals who work with private well and septic system owners. Over the past year I have researched how water quality testing

regulations impact health, created emergency preparedness resources focused on septic systems and private wells, and aided in projects ranging from body art regulation to vector control. Environmental health was a new frontier for me when I started but I have come to love working in a field that is always changing and keeps me on my feet.

I was born and raised in Lakewood, Colorado, and I grew up spending my free time hiking, skiing, and enjoying the outdoors. I moved to Portland, Oregon, to pursue my bachelor's degree at Lewis and Clark College, graduating in 2017 with a degree in political science and economics. While in school I worked with various senators and nonprofits to understand the relationship between policy and health and how research can be used to create and implement policies that benefit communities.

As I reflect on the past year, I cannot help but look forward to the challenges and opportunities my next year at NEHA will bring. With a year of experience under my belt, I am excited to continue advocating for environmental health and finding new ways to use my skills to elevate the field. I look forward to working with you in 2019!

Robert Stefanski



I joined the NEHA team as the marketing and communications manager in March 2018. I oversee all marketing initiatives and functions of NEHA and coordinate with all departments within the organization to communicate and promote their projects. My role is very diverse—every day I work and interact with different departments and team

members on a variety of projects ranging from marketing virtual conferences, writing website and social media posts, and designing marketing materials such as brochures, flyers, and advertisements. No two days are the same, which is one of the things I like best about my role! My work has a great impact on NEHA as my duties and responsibilities extend to most areas of the organization.

My background started in graphic design, not marketing. I received a bachelor's of fine arts degree with an emphasis in communication and graphic design from Metropolitan State University of Denver. I thoroughly enjoy creating unique and visually interesting designs that educate and inform people. Early on in my career, I began to develop marketing skills. Because of my strong writing and editing abilities, I noticed that there was an opportunity to stand out by adding marketing skills to my repertoire. I was able to not only write and develop marketing plans and initiatives but also execute those plans by designing the materials. Doing both has allowed me to become a one-stop shop that streamlines the marketing process. Joining NEHA was a natural fit for me and has allowed me to continue many of my interests and passions.

One of my main goals here at NEHA is to create consistent brand standards for the organization. I will be working with departments in the coming months to develop guidelines and standards that give NEHA a single voice. This work will include developing consistent marketing collateral and materials for staff to use. I will also be working to develop marketing plans to guide the organization in our marketing efforts and outline strategies and action steps to ensure our success. Another goal during my time here has been to improve the look and quality of our marketing materials. I have worked with staff to produce the NEHA 2018 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition brochure, 2019 AEC branding and collateral, and AEC advertisements that appear right here in the *Journal* (see page 48 for this month's 2019 AEC advertisement). I am really pleased with how our materials have turned out and I hope that you enjoy them, too!

I am very proud to be a part of this great organization. NEHA is doing wonderful things to become the leading voice and essential partner in the environmental health profession and I am honored to be a part of it. Here's to an exciting 2019 and I look forward to working with many of you! 🐾