I am very happy to announce to you, our members and colleagues, that NEHA has a new exciting and excited executive director who will come on board in early May. The NEHA board of directors and the executive director search committee have succeeded in hiring the very best qualified individual whom we were privileged to meet and interview. Dr. David Dyjack will assume his duties as the executive director and chief executive officer of NEHA on May 4, 2015.

Dr. Dyjack has an environmental/occupational health background in both public and private organizations with a work history of over 29 years. Dr. Dyjack’s resume reads like a man on a mission to spread the word about our profession and its diverse and unique disciplines. He has been a leader in the field of environmental health his entire career. His employment has included consulting firms, industrial firms, a university, and a nongovernmental organization (NGO). Dr. Dyjack comes to NEHA with experience as an associate executive director of programs for an NGO with a staff of 115 employees and a budget of $30 million. Dr. Dyjack supervised over 75 of those employees and a budget of $28 million while obtaining grant funding of over $73 million during his nearly five year tenure in that organization.

Dr. Dyjack has over 18 years’ experience as an academic; he started as a professor of environmental health, which led to his promotion as department chair and subsequently his appointment as dean of the School of Public Health and vice president for Health Education at Loma Linda University in California.

As an academic myself, I think our board and our executive director search committee struck gold with Dr. Dyjack. His experiences in other areas of environmental health give him a broad perspective and hands-on knowledge of our profession.

Dr. Dyjack was a joy to interview and set the stage for the other candidates. His enthusiasm and his apparent love and appreciation of our profession were contagious. He was interviewed by members of the board of directors and NEHA staff and gave us a new appreciation for the many things NEHA can and should do to spread the word about what environmental health is and can accomplish with the right leadership. He is a global environmental health enthusiast and wants NEHA to be at the table in that arena. His views on membership are to increase our membership as well as to give our members more access to, and variety of, opportunities.

As a manager, Dr. Dyjack likes to meet with his staff weekly to discuss the week’s progress and problems. He listens and observes to become familiar with the operations of the organization. He plans to interact with partners, NEHA members, the board of directors, and constituents to learn the culture of the organization. Communications are essential in all areas of developing, leading, and managing an organization like NEHA.

Dr. Dyjack has an impressive resume, having received a Doctorate in Public Health in occupational/environmental health, a Master of Science in Public Health in industrial hygiene, and a Bachelor of Science in biology as a foundation for his career in environmental health. His work experience has given him opportunities to explore many of the areas of environmental health that are essential components of public health.

Dr. Dyjack has the ability and opportunity to elevate NEHA to a higher level in the environmental health arena both nationally and globally, which our members have been
working to attain for many years. He brings to NEHA a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise in areas that can only enhance our organization’s future in obtaining grants, increasing our membership, and positioning NEHA with opportunities to interact with private and public entities on a more active and larger landscape. NEHA’s future and its continuing and lasting impact will be in a more positive position as Dr. Dyjack takes the reins of our organization.

In closing this column, I want to assure you that we have chosen our new executive director who will lead NEHA to greater heights with your support and involvement. I believe you will find him to be an excellent choice to continue the current work and enhance the opportunities for NEHA.

Dr. Dyjack will be the keynote speaker at NEHA’s 2015 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida, July 13–15, 2015 (www.neha2015aec.org). Please join us to hear his comments on the future of NEHA as the new executive director and chief executive officer. I look forward to seeing and talking with you in Orlando in July.

Dr. Carolyn Harvey

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Did You Know?

Registration prices for the NEHA 2015 AEC will go up on May 29. This is your last chance to take advantage of early bird pricing so act now! You can register for the 2015 AEC at www.neha2015aec.org. While registering don’t forget to purchase a ticket to the UL Event or one of the field trips NEHA has arranged for attendees. Space for these events is limited.

New Choices for 2015!

NEHA’s new membership categories gives every professional affordable options to belong and an opportunity to grow. Choose the NEHA membership that is right for you, your career, and your commitment to the environmental health profession.