



National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

*Enhancing the education and training of students
in environmental health science and protection*

October 2019

Greetings EHAC Colleagues,

This is EHAC's email newsletter in which you'll find important accreditation and policy updates, reminders of accreditation related deadlines, publications, EHAC related news, scholarship and internship opportunities for EHAC students, stories from students excelling in school and in their EH Careers and reports from colleagues "from the field". [Please note: you may need to click on "Display Images Below" in order to see photographs, etc.]

EHAC Celebrates Our 50th Year of Accrediting Environmental Health Programs at Our 2019 Annual Council Meeting in Nashville, TN

2019 marks EHAC's 50th year of Environmental Health Degree Program accreditation. We celebrated by presenting an EHAC and EH timeline at NEHA's AEC poster session and presenting an honorary plaque to East Tennessee State University for being the first Undergraduate EH Degree Program to be accredited by EHAC - in 1969! The plaque is engraved with the following:

On this 50th Anniversary, East Tennessee State University is recognized for its pioneering role as the first Environmental Health Undergraduate Program

***in the United States to receive accreditation by the
National Environmental Health Science and Protection
Accreditation Council (EHAC) on***

July 13, 1969

ETSU's 1969 Self-study Preamble:

***Environmental Health practice is as old as Moses, as young as
tomorrow's smog, as simple as water, as complicated as a nuclear
reactor; if its past might seem inglorious and its future unclear, it
is clear that in the future there must be Environmental Health if
there is to be a future of mankind.***

Interestingly, ETSU was also EHAC's first accredited Graduate Degree Program, in 1977. EHAC Council Member, Dr. Tim Murphy (right), presented the honorary award to Dr. Kurt Maier (left) (top photo). Excitingly, a number of ETSU faculty and ETSU Graduates were present for the award presentation as well (bottom photo).





Front Row from left to right: Cmdr. Jennifer Dobson (BSEH, 2004); Dr. Phillip Scheuerman; Cmdr. Lauren Shade (BSEH, 2007); Dr. Kurt Maier; and Capt. Steve Piontkowski (MSEH, 1999); Back row from left to right: Dr. Ying Li; Reem Tariq (MSEH, 2018); Dr. Kimberlee Hall (Ph.D., ENVH, 2012; AEHAP Member at Large); and Joseph Kusi (Ph.D. ENVH Student, projected 2020).

EHAC Council Approves Two New EH Degree Programs and Reaccreditation of Six EH Programs!

EHAC's Annual Council Meeting took place on July 7 and 8, 2019, at the Grand Ole Opry Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. The Council worked through a full agenda that included presentations from EHAC standing and ad hoc committees, accreditation and reaccreditation reviews, approval of a revised and

reformatted EHAC Governing Policy document, discussion of Board and Council succession planning, planning for revision of Graduate Guidelines and updates from partner organizations.

Newly accredited EH Programs:

1. Montana State University's Environmental Health Undergraduate Degree



Program (MSUEHP).

Dr. Seth Walk and Dr. Mari Eggers represented MSU at the annual meeting. They described a blossoming program that is enjoying strong support from the State of Montana, MSU's Administration and growing interest from MSU's student body - especially Native American students enrolled at MSU. MSU's EH Program presented the Council with a novel approach to an EH degree program, as the MSUEHP is housed within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, is interdisciplinary in nature and is co-led by two program directors. EHAC looks forward to a long and successful relationship with MSU.

2. Western Kentucky University's Master of Environmental Health and



Occupational Health Science Degree Program. Dr. Ritchie Taylor and Dr. Edrisa Sanyang represented WKU at the Council meeting and spoke enthusiastically about WKU's new program. There is great administrative support of the program and significant student interest in the EH Graduate option. EHAC looks forward to a long and successful relationship with WKU, as well.

Reaccredited Undergraduate Programs:

1. California State University, San Bernardino - Undergraduate Environmental Health Science Degree Program

2. Central Michigan University - Undergraduate Environmental Health and Safety Degree Program

3. Illinois State University - Undergraduate Environmental Health Degree Program

4. Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, Environmental Health Science Major - Bachelor of Science in Public Health Degree Program

5. Texas Southern University - Undergraduate Environmental Health Degree Program

6. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh - Undergraduate Environmental Health Degree Program

EHAC Governing Policy Revisions:

EHAC's Policy Committee and Executive Director completely revised and updated EHAC's Governing Policy Document, which was approved in its entirety at EHAC's Annual Meeting ([link to Policy Document](#)). While the majority of changes were formatting related, significant policy updates include:

1. Inclusion of the EHAC Constitution and Bylaws within the Governing Policy Document – no longer separate.
2. Constitution: Article IV – the total number of Council Members was changed to 21 with academics outnumbering practitioners.
3. Bylaws: Article II Sec. 2.6.1 – EHAC's Executive Director no longer serves as Executive Director of AEHAP.
4. Policy No. 4.3, Sec. 1.1.4 Undergraduate Degree Program Director Practical Experience Requirement – an interpretation of “practical experience” required of Program Directors was added to the policy.
5. **Accreditation Dues and Fee Increases**
 - **Initial Accreditation Fee raised to \$1,500 as of July 7, 2019**
 - **Reaccreditation Fee raised to \$1,000 as of January 1, 2020**

Follow-up from Vice Chair Jason Finley - ARMY Environmental Science Program Presentation

Online Environmental Health Courses available at "CDC

Train": <https://www.train.org/cdctrain/home>

Vice Chair Finley has provided the above link to a comprehensive Environmental Health related learning site known as [CDC Train](#). The CDC has gathered and consolidated a number of legacy EH oriented University training programs for public use.

For example, the University of Hawaii EMPRINTS courses are now also on CDC TRAIN. If this site does not accommodate the Environmental Health education material you are looking for please contact Vice Chair Finley directly for assistance - vice-chair_undergraduate_programs@nehspac.org.

EHAC Accredited Student News of Note

EHAC features student and graduate news of note in these newsletters. Please send EHAC your student related success stories to Leslie at executive.director@nehspac to feature in this newsletter.

NSF International and AEHAP Student Research Scholarship Winners Present at 2019 NEHA AEC!

Three AEHAP Student Research Scholarship Winners (SRCW), two co-winners, and one NSF International Intern attended and presented their research at the 2019 NEHA AEC Conference in Nashville, TN. The Scholars and NSF Intern and their research were well received by Conference participants and are pictured below:



Front row from left to right: AEHAP Scholarship Winners -Thomas Gerding (Eastern Kentucky University), Summer Corsolini (Illinois State University), Darcy Van Deventer (University of Washington) and Justine Marecaux (University of Washington); Back Row from left to right: Derek DeLand - NSF International, AEHAP Scholarship Winner Nick D'Antonio (West Chester University), NSF International Intern Kate Walters (Eastern Kentucky University) and AEHAP Past President Clint Pinion.

Scholarship and Internship Opportunities

1. The [NEHA/AAS Scholarship](#) to attend the 2020 NEHA AEC in New York, NY application period has opened and will be open until March 1, 2020. NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS) are offering TWO \$2500 scholarships for Undergraduates and ONE \$2,500 scholarship for Graduate

students. Undergraduate and Graduate students who are enrolled in an accredited college or university, with a dedicated and recognized curriculum in EH sciences, are eligible to apply for the NEHA/AAS Scholarship. **The purpose of the scholarship program is to encourage early commitment by students to pursue a career in EH. Apply at this [link \(https://www.neha.org/node/60196\)](https://www.neha.org/node/60196).**

2. NEPHIP - the National Environmental Public Health Internship

Program application period will be opening on October 10, 2019. **NOTE: This program is open ONLY to Undergraduate and Graduate students enrolled in EHAC accredited degree programs.** This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain hands-on practical experience, perhaps in a new part of the country. Application details will be updated on NEHA's website on October 10 - under Professional Development, Students, Internships.

Reports from the Field:



Program Director Dr. Zivar Yousefipour - Texas State University

This year's Annual Meeting saw extensive discussion of the importance of EHAC Program Directors having practical experience in the Environmental Health field. The value placed on PD practical experience (required by EHAC UG Accreditation Requirements) relates mainly to the ability of PDs to counsel their students on employment opportunities available to EH graduates and to the establishment of potential employers in the EH field.

Texas State University (TSU) achieved reaccreditation this year. Dr. Zivar Yousefipour has been integral to the growth and success of TSU's Environmental

Health Degree Program, however her EH experience focused mainly on her laboratory related studies in the Toxicology field. EHAC's Board requested Dr. Yousefipour to develop a plan for gaining more "boots on the ground" and hands on EH field work experience in order to comply with EHAC UG Requirements. Dr. Yousefipour describes her efforts and unexpected benefits of these efforts below:

Upon accepting the responsibility of the Program Director for Environmental Health at Texas Southern University, I was asked by EHAC to gain more knowledge about the practice of the Environmental Health profession since most of my experience was research related.

Although at the beginning I was not much in agreement for a need of this request, later I saw this as an opportunity to have personal interaction with supervisors and employers where our students were doing their internship. I realized this could be a way of evaluating the internship sites as well as making connections to create opportunities for future employment for our graduates.

I arranged to participate at four different sites and was very happy with the input I received from supervisors at these sites. I was able to use the information to recruit some of these individuals to be members of our Advisory Board and to further improve our program. I believe I was the only Program Director who took the time to meet these individuals and ask for their input which ultimately made them very appreciative for university's efforts to include them in evaluation of the EH program.

Thank you to Dr. Yousefipour for providing her observations of her efforts to enhance her EH practical experience and the resulting beneficial relationships that she has developed with EH practitioners in the local region.

Report from the Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) Conference - Dr. David Gilkey, D.C., REHS

Dr. Gilkey is a former, long-time EHAC Council Member and strong advocate for EHAC accreditation. His report on the 2019 MEHA Conference:

I recently attended my first Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) conference September 17-18 in Bozeman, MT. I was amazed at the turn out, enthusiasm and camaraderie. The conference drew 328 attendees! The MEHA partners with the Montana Public Health Association (MPHA) to share costs and support public health throughout the state. This was the first time that I have ever attended a cosponsored event and truly felt the level of collaboration between EH and PH organizations. The educational sessions were well attended and often had both groups participating. The buzz around the conference was about the new EHAC accredited EH program at Montana State University (MSU). There was a luncheon celebration with faculty and students from MSU sharing about their academic and program experiences. It was felt that the new program will help address the state workforce shortage. Practitioners were encouraged to refer students to the program.

The MEHA has approximately 100 members with 80% attending the annual event. All attendees maximized the networking opportunities. I was able to recruit three professionals to come to my EH classes at Montana Tech University. I believe that this type of collaboration between public health organizations should be duplicated across the country. Increasing proximity and interaction leads to more opportunities to better understand differences, similarities and how various professionals serve the public. The truly was a win-win situation.
