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National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

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

May 2021

The EHAC Board hopes this message finds you safe and well as we hopefully draw closer to an end of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. EHAC is aware of the many challenges continuing to face degree programs as we all tire of virtual meetings and increasingly heavy workloads. However, with vaccination numbers rising everyday, so it is with a vision of light at the end of the tunnel that I communicate these important announcements!

Important Updates

**EHAC Annual Meeting will be Virtual
on July 10 and 11, 2021!**

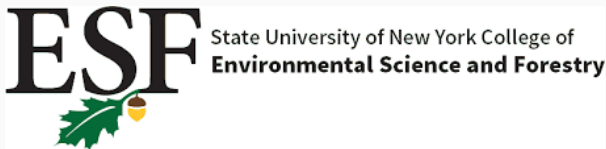
Due to the continuing COVID crisis, EHAC's Annual Meeting will take place via Zoom on July 10 and 11, 2021. Current and newly elected Council Members and reaccrediting Program Directors will be attending. The online venue also creates a great opportunity to attend the annual meeting for those interested in learning more about EHAC, as there are no travel or lodging and food costs.

EHAC's Annual Meeting will focus on revisions to the current Guidelines for the Accreditation of Environmental Health Science and Protection for Graduate Degree Programs and on the reaccreditation review of the Environmental Health Degree Programs at:

- **Fort Valley State University - Ft. Valley, Georgia (Graduate Program)**



- **State University of New York, Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York (Undergraduate Program)**



Stay tuned for updates, an agenda for the Annual Meeting and instructions for joining the Zoom meeting on July 10 and 11, 2021.

EHAC Welcomes Newly Elected Council Members for the 2021-2024 term

EHAC conducted its annual Council election this spring. We were excited to have twelve nominations for 9 open positions including 7 practitioners and 5 academics. Newly elected Members include:

Academics:

Dr. Swatantra Kethireddy - Mississippi Valley State University

Dr. Tim Murphy - University of Findlay, Ohio
Dr. Clint Pinion - Eastern Kentucky University
Dr. Lok R. Pokhrel - East Carolina University
Dr. Rania Sabty - California State University - Northridge

Practitioners:

CDR Jason Lewis - US Coast Guard, OR
COL (Retired) Wendell Moore - U.S. Army, Davidson, MD
Dr. Priscilla Oliver - Retired from EPA, Atlanta, GA
Cindy Weckwerth - Environmental Health Director, Minneapolis, MN

Congratulations to these new and returning Council Members!

Environmental Health Workforce Act

Exciting Environmental Health Legislation and an Opportunity to lend your organization's support to NEHA's effort to gain Federal support for the Environmental Health Profession

EHAC is excited to lend it's support for HR 2661, which would require, in part, the Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to:

- Establish guidelines for a credentialed Environmental Health workforce.
- Request a U.S. Government Accountability Office study of the profession comparing three states that require credentials with three states that do not require credentials.
- Allow states that already have credential requirements to remain untouched.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of Environmental Health practitioners to the nation's health. Moreover, the legislation would recognize the Herculean efforts of the EH workforce during the past year and half as EH professionals addressed the COVID 19 pandemic.

Visit NEHA's website to learn more about this legislation and sign on to NEHA's letter of support at - <https://www.neha.org/node/61939>.

Partner News

EHAC serves on the Environmental Health & Equity Collaborative (formerly the Environmental Health Coalition). Executive Director Leslie Mitchell participates on the Collaborative's EH Workforce and Education Committee. This committee recently produced two documents related to current and future EH workforce needs:

The [Environmental Health Competencies](#) highlights literature reviewed on Environmental Health competencies and suggests the need to develop a comprehensive set of competencies that apply a health equity lens to create and sustain equitable Environmental Health practices, policies and decisions

The [Environmental Health Competencies Questionnaire Report](#) gives an assessment of current Environmental Health workforce needs related to specific knowledge, skills and competencies. *This report, which summarizes questionnaire responses largely from state and local EH professionals involved in hiring first-time EH employees, revealed a deficit in the number of qualified EH applicants. While this was an initial and limited survey, the results raise concern related to the current and future need for adequately trained EH graduates.*

Please have a look at these publications when you have a chance!

Updates and Opportunities from the EH Field

International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH): The Editor in Chief (Dr. Andrew Mathieson) of the IFEH magazine, Environment & Health International, is offering the following publication opportunities for submission to the E&HI by EH practitioners and academics:

- **Space for a half page advert from universities offering EH and EH related courses, and**
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- **Papers/stories/observations from students, practitioners, leaders and academics.**

If you are interested in more information or would like to submit an item to the Magazine, please contact Dr. Mathieson at Andrew.Mathieson@anu.edu.au .

Thank you to IFEH for this opportunity!

Contact EHAC:

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