

Who's Who in CEHA

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Meet your new CEHA Board! The incoming members answered the following three questions for our Bulletin:

- What does Environmental Health mean to you?
- Why did you decide to become active in CEHA?
- _____ is my favorite because _____.

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

Graciela Garcia

County of Ventura Environmental Health Division
Supervising Environmental Health Specialist
Cal State University Northridge
BS Environmental & Occupational Health
President@ceha.org



I love being an Environmental Health Specialist! Our environment shapes our health every moment of every day. Where we live, what we eat, what we drink and how we interact with the world around us is a major determinant of our health and well-being. The goal and mission of the environmental health professional is to protect public health by reducing the environmental exposures that lead to avoidable diseases. Maintaining a healthy environment is key to maintaining good health.

The love for my profession is the main reason why I became active in the California Environmental Health Association. CEHA has provided me with a platform where I am continually learning and growing as an environmental health professional. Not only have I gained knowledge by attending CEHA's Annual Educational Symposiums and Updates, but I also have had the opportunity to expand my professional outlook by networking with others who have such passion for the profession and who have inspired me to become more involved and to inspire others to do the same. I am honored to have been elected as CEHA's President for 2019-2020. Along with the entire CEHA Board, we will continue to move the association forward and uphold CEHA's mission statement of providing for the professional growth and development of the environmental health professional.

In my free time, I enjoy coaching youth soccer. Soccer is my favorite sport because it translates into many aspects of life. Soccer is exciting—it requires quick thinking and fast action, and, most importantly, it emphasizes the importance to work as a team in order to achieve our goal!



Darryl Wong

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Director, County of San Benito
UC Berkeley Food Science
Bachelors in Environmental Health
President-elect@ceha.org

What does EH mean to me? Everything. It is my life; it is my soul; it is my passion. From arguing with a vendor about paying a \$54 late fee to crawling into a home that could explode at any moment, every day at work is a new and different situation and that's why I look forward to showing up the next day...unless I got blown up!

Why did I decide to become active in CEHA? To meet new friends when I moved to Southern California to work for the City of Long Beach back in 2003. Today, those friends are "family" to me and that family grows every year I serve CEHA. And who are you gonna trust to watch your back out there? I have NO FEAR!

The Terminator is my favorite movie because Ahhhnold "Came Baaahck."



Linda M. Launer

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Lecturer/EOHS Internship Coordinator, CSU Fresno
LL Resources: Environmental/Food Safety Consultant
MS in Health Science/Environmental Health, CSU Fresno
Vice-President@ceha.org

Environmental Health is the foundation of all areas of Public Health. In my current employment as a consultant, teaching lecturer, and internship coordinator, I have the privilege of continuing to educate others of the importance of our profession.

I choose to be involved and active in CEHA to promote the importance of our profession and the relationship with the public and legislature. I believe our mission is to improve the quality of life, work and health of our communities by sharing and promoting education for a safer environment.

My students at CSU—Fresno are my favorite. I enjoy the student who has stumbled from a pre-chosen degree path to discover the field of EH and all the areas for a future career it has to offer.



Jahniah McGill

EXECUTIVE PAST PRESIDENT

Past-President@ceha.org

Environmental Health is a bridge that connects many industries, relationships, and perspectives by silently impacting them without any notice.

I became active in CEHA when a coworker said I should take on a leadership role because he saw the excitement I had for my profession. It often takes an outside perspective to help you achieve your greatest accomplishments. Being an active member in CEHA is one of my most rewarding experiences as an Environmental Health Specialist. Tea is my favorite beverage because it reminds me of my grandma.

Kiki Cason

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Environmental Health Specialist, County of Orange

MPH, CSU Fullerton

Secretary@ceha.org

Environmental Health is a critical component of modern-day society. Environmental Health ensures, usually behind the scenes, that systems necessary to sustain human life—air, water, food, and waste—are maintained in a safe and clean manner. I enjoy the camaraderie with other CEHA members and consider CEHA an investment in my career. I wanted to serve this important organization. “Audible” is my favorite, because I love listening to stories and self-help as I sit in So Cal traffic!



Deepa Dillikar

EXECUTIVE TREASURER

Environmental Health Specialist, County of Santa Clara

MPH in Environmental & Occupational Health

Treasurer@ceha.org

I love environmental health. As REHSs we all make a difference in public health. I have an extensive research background specializing in food safety and interventions in lead and mold hazards. I conducted pilot studies for childhood lead poisoning, molds and asthma, as well as oral presentations on childhood lead poisoning, indoor air quality and molds at annual American Public Health Association conferences and Florida Environmental Health Association conferences. With CEHA we share a strong network of environmental health professionals. As a CEHA executive board member, I encourage others to expand our professional CEHA network.



Jeff Arsua

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Environmental Health Specialist II, Plan Check
County of San Diego, DEH, Food and Housing Division
BS, CSU Northridge

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I am extremely passionate about EH and was fortunate enough to have two family members who are currently Environmental Health Specialists in other counties and who encouraged me towards this profession. I decided to become active in CEHA to have the opportunity to meet others in the profession and to encourage new REHSs to become active.



Ryan Hammon

NORTHERN CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Environmental Health Specialist, Alameda County
Department of Environmental Health
BS in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, UC Davis

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We all have a responsibility to learn about our changing environment in order to identify and mitigate as much potential damage as possible and to promote good stewardship of our resources. Historically, humans have played a reactionary role in addressing environmental issues, and we largely continue doing so. The most important aspect of EH to me is building our knowledge base and continually learning to promote an increasingly proactive role in ensuring a safe space for all.

I decided to become active in CEHA because I fell in love with my career as an REHS and simply wanted more of it wherever I could get it. I filled my time by becoming involved in EH activities with the Epidemiology Team, teaching the Food Safety Manager course and proctoring the exam, and training in Plan Review. I recognize I am new to the profession and feel like I mostly draw from the experience of the members who have come before me, but I have my commitment, time, and passion for this field to offer CEHA. So, I look forward to contribute all that I can during my career in CEHA.

Camping, hiking, and exploring the ENTIRE California with my wife is my favorite hobby/plan/vacation because... it's California... it's GORGEOUS!!!



Brenna Santiago

SOUTHERN CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Registered Environmental Health Specialist, County of Los Angeles
 California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
 Bachelors in Biology
 Azusa Pacific University
 MPH (currently enrolled)
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CEHA serves both as an organization that fosters the professional development of California Environmental Health Specialists and as a group of individuals that is dedicated to furthering the profession. Continuing education and networking opportunities help cultivate exceptional professionals in the field who ultimately serve the public in their best form.

I hope to help bridge the gap between enforcement entities and the public through effective education. Having worked at a school prior to working as an REHS, I have an in-depth understanding of how a good education can influence behavior positively. In the long run, the goal of an Environmental Health Specialist is to protect and promote a healthful environment, and that can be done so most effectively through proper education of the public and professionals that serve the public.



Sandy Murray

MISSION CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Supervising Environmental Health Specialist
 County of Ventura Environmental Health Division
 CSU Northridge
 BS & MS in Environmental Health/Occupational Safety
 Southern California Institute of Law, Juris Doctorate
mission-chapter@ceha.org



Since first joining CEHA as a student member, I've been an REHS since 1994 and a proud CEHA member for decades. What I enjoy most about the EH profession is that it enables me to provide public service and to help others while protecting the environment and public health. Through my work in local government and as a part-time lecturer at CSU—Northridge, it also affords me the opportunity to reach out to the younger generation and introduce them to the interesting and rewarding EH profession. CEHA provides a platform where environmental health professionals can learn and grow together, share our experiences, and form life-long friendships.



Alexandra Calderon

CITRUS CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Environmental Health Specialist, San Bernardino County
BS in Biology, University of California Riverside
citrus-chapter@ceha.org



Environmental Health is a way to impact the world around us profoundly and positively. It is an important and sometimes overlooked branch of science and I am happy to represent it in my career and personal life.

I decided to become active in CEHA because as I was starting my career in EH, I wanted to explore what was out there. CEHA helped me to branch out, network, and engage in more opportunities in the EH field.

I enjoy rock climbing, reading, baking, and running in my free time.



Sarah Sanders

REDWOOD CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Environmental Health Specialist II, Humboldt County Division of
Environmental Health
Northern Vermont University, Integrated Environmental Science
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Environmental Health underscores the role of people in our built environments and helps to identify ways to thrive in the places where we live, work, and play.

I have a passion for rural environmental health. I love what we do!

Lilacs are my favorite flower because they are fragrant, beautiful, and a gentle reminder to enjoy the moment.

Wendy Yen

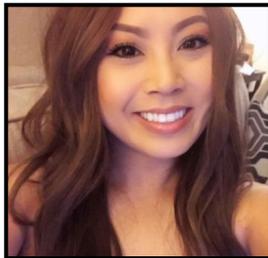
SUPERIOR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Environmental Health Specialist II
County of Sacramento Environmental Health
CSU Sacramento

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I decided to become active in CEHA as soon as I obtained my REHS credential. I saw it as an opportunity to learn more about the profession, grow with the profession and meet people who share similar interests.



Currently, my Dyson cordless vacuum cleaner is my favorite thing—Ha! It has changed the game of cleaning.

Abel Simon

CENTRAL CHAPTER PRESIDENT

San Francisco Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Inspector
CSU Fresno
BS Public Health

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Environmental Health is where nature and the daily interactions of humans meet at a crossroads. It means being able to keep in mind that the actions we make affect the environment around us, and it is important to protect and promote awareness of this for future generations to come.

I became an active member of CEHA because I have a passion for not only environmental health, but also for helping to educate the public. I believe we can always learn something regarding EH and part of that includes learning from fellow colleagues who are a part of this association.



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Believe in Environmental Health Experience and Observation to demystify Public Health

2019 Fall Update – CEHA Redwood Chapter

SAVE THE DATE: October 24, 2019

Flamingo Resort – Santa Rosa, California

Keep an eye on the Redwood Chapter page for details...

www.ceha.org/redwood-chapter.html

