



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Winter 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Nancy Bernard

Dear Colleagues,

As we move into a new year it's exciting to think about all the new opportunities and work that Environmental Public Health is doing. Moving out of COVID response is giving us time to return to important work and I feel a renewed sense of purpose. The importance of EPH to our communities was shown in the excellent work done to reduce death and disability from the pandemic. For my areas of school environmental health and safety and indoor air quality, preparation and training were validated. Your dedication to our profession has been inspiring.

I hope you will all join us in May for our Annual Educational Conference to focus on *Strengthening Environmental Health for a Sustainable Future*. The program is coming together with informative presentations, field trips, and time for networking and socializing. [2023 Annual Education Conference | wseha.](#)

The International Health committee is hard at work and can always use volunteers. Let's all work to have a successful auction to support Tacoma based Etta Projects (EP) which focuses on public health, conservation, and education in rural Bolivian villages, responding to village requests for locally sustainable water, safe sanitation, and health care systems. You can learn more about their work at the AEC. [International Health | wseha.](#)

WSEHA wants to recognize environmental health practitioners doing exceptional work. Nominations are open for the John P. Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award, the Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award, the Rookie of the Year Award, and the Jack B. Hatlen Presidents' Award. Please see [Awards/Scholarships | wseha](#) for more information and to make nominations.

The National Environmental Health Association is compiling a history of the association and its affiliates. I thought you'd be interested in what they have for WSEHA.

Organization/Charter Date: 1945

Mission: a non-profit professional and educational organization

WSEHA AWARDS

2023

NOMINATIONS OPEN
UNTIL 3/3/2023



**JOHN NORDIN
OUTSTANDING SANITARIAN**
SOMEONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THEIR
DEEP COMMITMENT TO FIELD OF EH.



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**
SOMEONE WHO SHOWS EXTRAORDINARY
LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
SOMEONE NEW TO EH (2 YEARS OR LESS)
WHO HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

WWW.WSEHA.ORG

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Publications Committee—

International Health Committee – Layken Winchester

Layken.winchester@kitsappublichealth.org

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Like [WSEHA’s Facebook page](#) ! Stay up-to-date with the goings-on in the field of Environmental Public Health.

Another way to keep up with what we’re doing is to join our mailing list. Go to wseha.org to join the mailing list or email Megan McNelly at megan@wseha.org.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

Summer 2023

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Membership in WSEHA is not required for acceptance of articles in the newsletter.

Opinions expressed in articles published in the WSEHA newsletter should not be accepted necessarily as statements of policy or opinions of WSEHA.

The National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEPHIP) is designed to connect students to those working in the environmental health field, and consider careers working in state, tribal, local, or territorial environmental health departments following graduation.

Why should you consider applying to host a NEPHIP intern?

- ▶ **Qualified & Compensated Students:** NEPHIP interns are undergraduate and graduate students from environmental health programs accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC). EHAC requires a firm educational foundation in the natural sciences of biology, chemistry, physics, and geology. Each intern receives a base stipend of \$6,000.00 for undergraduate students and \$8,000.00 for graduate students to complete the 400-hour internship, allowing them to focus on your project. (Review [NEPHIP's PDF of the Project Guidance](#) for project examples and considerations).
- ▶ **Strengthen the EH Profession:** This practical, hands-on internship results in graduates that are well-prepared to immediately enter the environmental health workforce or continue their academic journeys. You may even be matched with an intern that would be a good fit for an entry-level environmental health position within your organization after graduation!
- ▶ **Support & Coordination:** Participating health departments are provided a support package valued at up to \$1,500.00 per student to compensate for intern-related costs, and administrative support from NEHA staff for weekly intern-mentor meetings.
- ▶ **Flexibility:** NEPHIP now offers the internship experience via virtual, in-person/on-site, or hybrid format depending on student and health department needs.

Environmental Health Program applications are accepted on a rolling basis if positions are open and available, although it's encouraged that programs apply by February 1 for priority consideration for Summer 2023. Matching is anticipated to be completed by the end of March for the Summer 2023 session. Summer session internship experiences will begin between May and June and will end by early September 2023. Need more information? Check out the [NEPHIP Health Department Guide](#) and the [NEPHIP webpage for State, Territorial, Local, Tribal Environmental Health Programs](#). Ready to apply? Complete the [application](#) online for Summer 2023.



Photo from DEOHS

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

For a student perspective and a great article, visit [this site](#) for the info!

AEC 2023 Update

Greetings Environmental Health Colleagues,

It's time to mark your calendars for the 2023 WSEHA Annual Education Conference. This year we are gathering at the beautiful Hotel Murano in Tacoma from May 8-10. This is without a doubt the nicest AEC venue in all my 30+ years of conference participation. The hotel is an art gallery, each floor with a theme and beautiful artwork to admire. Oh yes, there will also be lots of great in-person training to maintain your CEUs.

Our planning Committee is cooking up a great program plus some fun extracurricular activities featuring:

- Monday morning pre-conference sessions covering school health and safety and water recreation facility inspections
- A keynote address from Attorney General Bob Ferguson
- Field trips
- The always awesome International Health Committee Silent Auction and raffle
- Breakout sessions representing all Environmental Health programs
- A Monday evening social event with live music (and maybe a trivia contest?)
- The third annual-ish cornhole tournament ([sign-up here!](#))
- Networking, networking, networking

How can you help?

- Plan to attend! Registration will open in February once the program content is confirmed.
- Sign up as a room moderator. Look for a call for volunteers in late March/early April.
- Talk conference up with your co-workers.
- Volunteer to join the planning committee now and for our 2024 conference.

This conference is about teaching and learning from one another. The conference succeeds when we all participate.

Shout outs to:

- Our AEC Planning Committee who began work on this conference last June.
- Megan McNelly, our Executive Secretary who tirelessly toils behind the scenes to make things run smoothly.
- Our hosts from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department who are organizing both content and social events to showcase the great things about Pierce County.

Questions? Reach out to me (tkunesh@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Katie Lott (klott@tpchd.org).

See you in Tacoma!

Katie Lott
Tom Kunesh
Conference co-chairs

Registration is
open!

[wseha.org/2023-
aec](https://wseha.org/2023-aec)

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE: Silent Auction & Raffle

As part of our mission, The IHC partners with organizations to sponsor environmental health related projects. These projects range from providing safe drinking water, roofing, sanitary toilets, food security, and more. One of the most impactful ways that we can sponsor these projects is by hosting an a silent auction and raffle every year at WSEHA's AEC. Last year, WSEHA members helped raise over \$4000 dollars for Project Ethiopia, an organization dedicated to providing sanitary and healthy homes as well as safe drinking water to community schools in the Dangla region of Africa.

The auction is back again this year and we are happy to announce that the 2023 IHC recipient is Etta Projects!

Etta Projects is a Tacoma based non-profit organization that works in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America. In rural areas of Eastern Bolivia, their current service area, the majority of families live without adequate water, sanitation, and access to healthcare. Their mission is to collaborate with communities to create sustainable solutions to improve health, sanitation, and clean water. In 2022, Etta expanded its focus to eliminating food insecurity in the region using environmental solutions. Through their work, over 71,000 people in Bolivia have benefited with improved health and nutrition, water, and sanitation. Additionally, 19 communities and 435 families now have environmentally sounds sanitation systems, and 31 villages have clean water systems and water committee to manage them.



Here is how YOU can help sponsor Etta Projects and make this year's IHC Silent Auction and Raffle successful:

- ▶ Donate to the silent auction! Items in the past have included: gift cards, experiences, getaways, books, gently used items and memorabilia, etc. Anything helps!
- ▶ Raffle baskets! It's time to get competitive and creative! IHC is encouraging all WSEHA board members, LHJs, and any individual with a creative spirit to donate your best raffle gift basket. Last year Kitsap Public Health and DOH earned bragging rights for the most money raised and most creative baskets, respectively. Who is going to take the awards from them this year?
- ▶ Please also feel free to make direct monetary donations at the auction by using the following link:



Any additional questions about donating, volunteer opportunities, or the upcoming auction can be directed to Layken Winchester, IHC Chair. Thank you for your time and help in supporting Etta Projects!

Contact info: Layken Winchester,
Internationalhealth.WSEHA@gmail.com (360) 728-2247



WSEHA Board Updates

The WSEHA Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We are currently updating some of our policies and practices, as well as planning for the future of EH and how the organization can support and expand environmental health in Washington. Meeting minutes are available here: <https://www.wseha.org/board-meeting-minutes>.

Nominations for Board positions are open. Along with the regional VP positions, the Treasurer position and President-Elect positions are accepting nominations. All are voting positions on the WSEHA board. If interested, visit <https://www.wseha.org/wseha-board-nominations>.

President's Message, continued

established to provide a forum for dialogue and a vehicle for advanced training opportunities. WSEHA enhances individual and collective expertise, promotes professional growth, and revitalizes Environmental Health endeavors. The Association is enriched by the diversity of ideas and orientations of its members, who represent both the public and private sectors.

Objectives:

1. To develop cooperation with various branches and departments of government in activities directed toward the improvement of the public health.
2. To increase the knowledge and efficiency of its members.
3. To promote high standards of attainment in the work of its members.
4. To increase opportunities for the professional development of its members.
5. To strive for professional recognition from the public and official sources.

This is us — we're all part of making our association successful and able to support the important work all of you are doing. I am grateful for your commitment to environmental public health and helping our communities be healthier and safer.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bernard, MPH, REHS, CPSI

BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

PRESIDENT-ELECT, TREASURER, AND VP POSITIONS AVAILABLE