



*Welcome to the
2021 Annual Awards
Virtual Ceremony*

HOSTED BY NCAEHA

CEREMONY PROGRAM

PRESENTERS:

NICOLE GRAGASIN
VP OF MEMBERSHIP

JULIA BALSLEY
PRESIDENT

MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

7:00pm



Program

7:00 WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
JAMES M. WORDSWORTH SCHOLARSHIP
DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INNOVATION
NCAEHA INDUSTRY AWARD
MEMBER(S) OF THE YEAR -DC, MD, VA
PRESIDENTS AWARD

RAFFLE DRAWINGS

CONCLUSION



James M. Wordsworth

Scholarship

Deborah Brown, EHS II Fairfax County Health Department

Being an employee within Fairfax County's Health Department has afforded me some amazingly rewarding opportunities to work with the public as well as the environment. One achievement that I am particularly proud of blended the worlds of "public" and the "environment" into what I would call a public health co-operative. I was chosen within the Women, Infants and Children agency, to partner with the Virginia Cooperative Extension program, to become a trained educator of food preparation and nutrition. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Program makes a difference in the lives of an underserved population, SNAP and WIC recipients, by teaching innovative ways for food preparation, effective resource utilization, physical activity and even teaching food sustainability and gardening. With the completion of my training I spear-headed the food demonstrations in the Mount Vernon area for the clients and their families receiving WIC benefits. I was able to turn nutrition education classes into fun, hands-on experiences that gave families the information necessary to make healthier nutrition choices. Since benefits can be limited, it was also important to educate this population on the significance of learning how to properly shop for food items, and to create meal plans or recipes that utilized all provided items. I developed imitation recipes from famous fast-food restaurants that could be re-created in healthy ways, that also utilized their food benefits. My communication also expanded to the office formerly located on the Fort Belvoir military base, where a group of clients participated in the WIC program and chose gardening as a means of feeding their families. I educated them on shopping at local farmers markets and even taking advantage of the Farmer's Market truck that was available at the South County government building certain days of the week. I was so honored to be a part of such a great initiative and enjoyed the chance to educate the community on healthy food choices that could also have a positive impact on the environment as well!

2020/2021 Awardees



Dedicated Service Award:

Santos Ayala, EHS,
Arlington County Community
Health & Protection Bureau

After retiring from the Army as Environmental Health Compliance Officer, Mr. Ayala joined Arlington County Government as a Code Enforcement Inspector, where he proactively investigated and responded to complaints of Housing Code Violations.

After three years with the Building Department Inspection Services he was promoted to an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) within the Department of Human Services Public Health Division. Shortly thereafter he became a member of NCAEHA. He joined Arlington County as an EHS a little time after that and encouraged new employees to join NCAEHA. He has been a long-term member of the NCAEHA and has presented at several of the Educational Conferences.

For the past 22 years his routine work has included plan review, inspections of hotels, restaurants and water recreation facilities. As a licensed Lead Risk Assessor with the State he has been invaluable with performing lead risk assessments of children who have been tested with elevated blood lead levels in Arlington, Alexandria and Prince William jurisdictions.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Mobile Unit Inspection Program within the Environmental Health Program. He has great communication skills, helping with Spanish translation with the Community and the entire Public Health Department, ensuring the health and safety of all. An excellent team player he is currently on the COVID Public Health Response Team Operations Section performing risk assessments of close contacts of cases through interviews and investigation.

2020/2021 Awardees



NCAE HA Industry Award:

Farmers Restaurant Group

Farmers Restaurant Group has been granted the Industry Award this year based on all the great things that they have been able to accomplish and contributed to promoting Health Safety and Sanitation throughout our seven restaurants.

One of the restaurants located in DC called "Founding Farmers DC", received the Directors Award this past September of 2019 which is a food safety merit award of excellence. Another restaurant under Farmers Restaurant group, located in Fairfax county Virginia called "Founding Farmers Reston Station", received the STAMP program award this January of 2020, which is an enrollment program aimed at assessing and promoting proactive food safety practices and recognizing food service establishments for their food safety management systems. As well as our Executive Chef Jonathan Capo, who was awarded the active managerial control award.

Throughout the seven restaurants, we conduct monthly food safety and sanitation inspections, we do yearly manager food safety testing for all of the managers under Prometric. We have implemented written policies, and do constant trainings in both English and Spanish for all of our team members in order to ensure that we are in compliance with out state and local guidelines, as well as the current Food code.

Since mid-March Farmers Restaurant Group, has also been a pioneer in the industry these past few months of the covid-19 crisis in these challenging times. We have adapted our operations and offerings, connected with new and existing partners, and continued to look for new ways to serve and uplift our friends and neighbors by:

- Delivering over 3,800 meals to local area hospitals and first responders through partnerships with Feed the Fight, as well as individual donations.
- Delivering over 300 meals to housebound elders and those in need across DC and Northern Virginia through our partnership with Last Call for Food.
- Providing almost 2,000 individually packaged and freshly prepared meals per week to DC's most vulnerable residents through our partnership with World Central Kitchen.
- Using flour donated through our North Dakota farmers and former Senator Heidi Heitkamp to make and donate 200 loaves of bread to DC Central Kitchen.
- Supplying over 1,200 gallons of our Founding Spirits Hand Sanitizer to hospitals, first responders, healthcare workers, and others across our communities.
- Offering 50% off our restaurant To Go menus for first responders.
- Opening a Market & Grocery in 6 of their 7 restaurants with contact-free curbside pick-up and delivery.

2020/2021 Awardees



Environmental Health Innovation Award;

Alexandria Environmental Health Team

The Alexandria Health Department's Environmental Health team, like many other EH programs were faced with changing the way they operate when the COVID-19 pandemic started. Realizing that businesses were going to need help navigating the reopening processes they sprang into action, creating the ALX Promise program. EH Manager Rachel Stradling, worked with AHD leadership, City partners, Visit Alexandria, and local restaurant and business associations, to get their plan and the program rolling. Then other members of the EH team, Safwaan Islam, Jasmine McNally, Erin Miller, and Marcella Sikon worked to create checklists and PowerPoint presentations to utilize during training sessions for businesses. Throughout the program the entire EH team, including Amanda Barto, Amanda Coletti, Jennifer Lineback, Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins, Leslie Valenzuela and Kendra Washington all played a part either conducting trainings, delivering materials to businesses, or updating and reviewing materials for the program.

The ALX Promise program itself helps businesses safely reopen and remain open during the pandemic. When customers see the ALX Promise shield displayed on a businesses they know that the business has committed to higher safety standards for employees and customers than the minimum rules required by law for all businesses. Those businesses participate in training with an AHD Environmental Health Specialist on the requirements to reopen their business. They train all their employees on the safety measures needed for a safe reopening. And they submit a completed checklist, training record and pledge commitment to ensure the safety of its employees and staff. Then they agree to follow all future applicable health guidance as Alexandria enters new phases of reopening. New checklists and trainings are completed as new changes.

This program, as of date, has had over 420 businesses sign up for the program, representing restaurants, retail stores, tour guides, office buildings, entertainment venues, hotels, and more. And more than 200 have fully completed all aspects of the program.

2020/2021 Awardees

Members of the Year



DC

Mouhaman Kola, DOEE

Attended the 2020 Winter Conference
2020 Virtual Educational Conference,
Membership: 2018, 2020

Mouhaman Sani Kola, MS, LEHS, CAPMI Currently work as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division for the District Of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment. Prior to joining the Department in June 2017, I was working as an Environmental Compliance Specialist in the Lead Accreditation & Oversight Division for the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. I graduated from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) now University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) in 2009 with a BS, and in 2011 with MS in Environmental Management. I maintain NEHA's membership, Maryland License of Environmental Health Specialist (LEHS), District of Columbia Lead Risk Assessor Certification, and Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)® issued by the Project Management Institute.

MD



Bishaw Woldemariam, PG
County Health Department

Attended the 2020 Winter Conference,
2020 Virtual Educational Conference,
Membership: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

2020/2021 Awardees

Members of the Year - VA



Chelsea Klatte, Arlington County Community Health & Protection Bureau

Attended the 2020 Winter Conference,
2020 Virtual Educational Conference,
Membership 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Chelsea Klatte is an Environmental Health Specialist for Arlington County's Public Health Division. Chelsea was born in Vermont and graduated the University of New Haven in 2011 with a Bachelor's of Science in Marine Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. Chelsea began working with VDH in 2015 in the Rappahannock Area Health District before starting with Arlington County in 2017. Chelsea primarily performs food inspections but also works on hotel and water recreational facility inspections.



Candice Wooden Arlington County Community Health & Protection Bureau

Attended the 2020 Winter Conference,
2020 Virtual Educational Conference,
Membership 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Candice L. Wooden is the Senior Environmental Health Specialist, District Standardization Officer, and is currently acting as the Environmental Health Supervisor during the COVID-19 response for the Arlington County Public Health Division (ACPHD). She has worked for ACPHD for 10 years and for Arlington County for a total of 14 years. Candice graduated from Old Dominion University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health. She has always been a lover of science and health studies. She has led multiple ACPHD, Environmental Health Programs and is solely responsible for training her fellow Environmental Health Specialist. She maintains the NEHA's CP-FS credential and serves as the Environmental Health subject matter expert for the ACPHD, Environmental Health Program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has assisted in many roles including but not limited to the Public Health COVID-19 Logistics Lead. She is a proud Arlington native who serves her community.

2020/2021 Awardees