

## Environmental Health Award Winners

September 9, 2013

This year the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) honored staff from CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) at the 77th annual NEHA educational conference on July 9-11, 2013, in Washington, DC.



The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) honored staff from CDC's National Center for Environmental Health at the 77th annual NEHA educational conference on July 9-11, 2013, in Washington, DC.

*Photo credit: National Environmental Health Association*

### Vincent J. Radke: 2013 Walter F. Snyder Award

On July 9, Vincent J. Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DAAS, CPH, received the 2013 Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Advancing Environmental Health. The award is presented each year by NSF International and NEHA to a recipient recognized by peers for outstanding accomplishment in the fields of health and the environment. It is named for Walter F. Snyder, the executive director of the National Sanitation Foundation (now NSF International) from 1944 until his death in 1965. Kevin P. Lawlor, NSF international president and CEO, presented the award. He said Radke's "service as a public health advocate, as well as a leader and mentor, demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of public and environmental health. He inspires collaboration between agencies and people at all levels, and has helped establish many programs that have made a lasting global impact."

Radke is a sanitarian in the Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services (EEHS)/Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB). He came to the branch in December 2001 from the Hennepin County Health Department in Minnesota. Read more about his [accomplishments](#).



2013 Walter F. Snyder Award recipient Vincent J. Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DAAS, CPH. *Photo by Jay Dempsey*

In 2008 and 2011, EHSB's Craig A. Shepherd, RS, MPH, DAAS (CAPT, USPHS) and NCEH's Gary P. Noonan, RS, MPA, DLAAS (CAPT, USPHS [Ret.]), respectively, also received this prestigious award.

## Michael E. Herring: 2013 Walter S. Mangold Award

Michael E. Herring, REHS, MPH (CAPT, USPHS) received the 2013 Walter S. Mangold Award on July 11. This prestigious award—the highest award given by NEHA—started in 1955 and recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the environmental health professional. It is named for Walter Mangold for his lifetime dedication to upgrading the performance of sanitarians and raising the standards of environmental health practitioners. His programs helped shape the environmental health profession throughout the world. Herring received this award for exhibiting the highest levels of dedication, leadership, professionalism, and expertise that mark all aspects of his environmental health career. Colleague Richard Gelting, PhD, PE (CAPT, USPHS, and 2013 Federal Engineer of the Year) said, “Herring is the best environmental health professional that I have ever worked with or known. His span of expertise and knowledge across all environmental health issues is truly impressive.”



2013 Walter S. Mangold Award recipient Michael E. Herring, REHS, MPH (CAPT, USPHS).

Herring is an environmental health officer in EHSB. He came to the branch in December 2001 from the US Coast Guard, where he was the director of the Coast Guard’s largest environmental compliance program.

## Mark D. Miller and Martin A. Kalis: Educational Contribution Award

Mark D. Miller, RS, MPH (CAPT, USPHS) and Martin A. Kalis, MA, received the new NEHA Educational Contribution Award for their work related to the [Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response \(EHTER\)](#). EHTER focuses on key environmental health issues and challenges to prepare environmental health professionals for emergency response and recovery.

This new award recognizes recipients for outstanding educational contributions within the field of environmental health. It acknowledges recipients’ work to advance and promote professional development of environmental health professionals through instruction or development of an educational or training tool.



Mark D. Miller, RS, MPH (CAPT, USPHS) (*left*), and Martin A. Kalis, MA (*right*), received the new National Environmental Health Association Educational Contribution Award. *Kalis photo by Teresa M. Sims*

Miller is an environmental health officer in EHSB. He came to the branch in 2003 from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s Division of Health Education and Promotion.

Kalis is a public health advisor in EHSB. He came to the branch in February 2006 from the EEHS Environmental Public Health Readiness Branch.

## Radke and Kalis: Past Presidents Award

Kalis and Radke also received the 2013 NEHA's Past Presidents Award. Rarely do two individuals receive this award.

The year before this award is given, the NEHA past presidents get together and identify a hero for the profession who accomplishes much on behalf of environmental health but who does a lot of their work behind the scenes. The name is held secret and not revealed until the day of the award ceremony one year later.

## Debbie Bankston: Presidential Citation

Debbie Bankston received a second consecutive Presidential Citation from NEHA. The citation honored

Debbie's work to ensure that quality programs, trainings, and education are available to environmental health professionals. Bankston streamlined the process by which NCEH can provide critical environmental health training to environmental health practitioners.

Bankston is a lead public health advisor in EHSB. She came to the branch in 2005 from the NCEH Office of the Director.



Debbie Bankston received a second consecutive Presidential Citation from the National Environmental Health Association.  
*Photo by Maggie Byrne*

## About NEHA

NEHA was incorporated in 1937 as a national professional society for environmental health practitioners. Those practitioners established a standard of excellence for the developing profession of environmental health. The standard is now known as the Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential.

In addition to the REHS/RS credential, NEHA now also offers the [following additional credentials](#):

- Certified in Comprehensive Food Safety (CCFS)
- Certified Environmental Health Technician (CEHT)
- Certified Installer of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (CIOWTS)
- Certified Professional Food Safety (CP-FS)
- Healthy Homes Specialist Credential (HHS)