

**Illinois
Environmental
Health Association**

Annual Educational Conference

November 8 - 9, 2021

Starved Rock Lodge

2688 E 873rd Road

Oglesby, IL 61348

\$85+ taxes per night

Mention the IEHA block for rooms



Social Activities:

Guided Hike of the Canyons – Noon both days

Reception – Monday at 4:30pm

S'mores Bonfire – Monday at 6:30pm

2021 IEHA Annual Education Conference

- Water
- Food Safety
- Pest Control
- Body Art
- Pools
- Wastewater



Thanks to our Sponsors and Exhibitors

CDP - HealthSpace – IPHA – Clear Comfort

Conference Agenda

Monday November 8, 2021 (6.0 CEU hours)

MAIN ROOM

- 8:00a.m. – 8:45a.m. **Conference Registration**
- 8:45a.m. - 9:00a.m. **Opening Remarks – Justin Dwyer, IEHA President**
- 9:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. **Keynote Presentation**
Tom Hughes – Illinois Public Health Association
- 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. **Building Flavor with Fermentation: A Cooking Demonstration**
Ken Thompson
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m. **The Sociodemographic Drivers of Household Radon Testing in Illinois**
Dr. Lenore Killam
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30p.m. **Lunch (on your own) Free Guided Hike of Canyons**
- 1:30p.m. – 2:30p.m. **Ethical Challenges for the Environmental Professional**
Christopher Abel – August Mack
- 2:30p.m. - 3:30p.m. **Private Well Resources Available to Support Private Well Owners and EHP’s**
Steve Wilson – Illinois State Water Survey
- 3:30p.m. – 4:30p.m. **Sewage Program Updates**
Chad Moorman – Illinois Department of Public Health
- 4:30p.m. – ??? **Reception**
- 6:30p.m. - ??? **Bonfire/S’mores**

UTICA ROOM

- 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. **PFAS – Educating the Contractor and Customer VIRTUAL**
David Schulenburg
- 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. **Foodborne Illness Litigation VIRTUAL**
Bill Marler – Food Safety News
- 1:30p.m. – 2:30p.m. **Get the Lead Out: Lead in Drinking Water VIRTUAL**
Iyana Simba – Illinois Environmental Council
- 2:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. **Improving Pool Inspections using the MAHC - VIRTUAL**
Dewey Case – Modal Aquatic Health Code

LASALLE ROOM

- 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. **AOP & UV: The Facts & Figures behind Health-Conscious Water Care**
Tom Schaefer – Clear Comfort
- 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. **Micro Blading**
Gayle Sobocinski
- 1:30p.m. – 2:30p.m. **The Impacts of Nuisance Birds on Human Health/Safety**
Vanessa Williams - Wild Goose Chase
- 2:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. **Technology and its Effect on Environmental Health**
Joseph Willmott – HealthSpace

Tuesday November 9, 2021 (5.0 CEU hours)

- 8:00a.m. – 8:45a.m. **Conference Registration**
- 8:45a.m. - 9:00a.m. **Opening Remarks – Justin Dwyer, IEHA President**

MAIN ROOM

- 9:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. **Home to Market Food**
Justin Dwyer – Molly Gleason - Gerrin Cheek Butler
- 10:00a.m - 11:00a.m. **Evaluation of Specialized Processes in Tennessee VIRTUAL**
Danny Ripley – TN Centers of Excellence
- 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. **Child Drowning Prevention Best Practices for Environmental Health Services**
Laura Cochran – DuPage County Health Department
- 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m. **Lunch (on your own) Free Guided Hike of Canyons**
Mike Phillips - Geology Professor from Illinois Valley Community College
- 1:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. **Cider**
Corine Peplinski - PCCHD
- 3:30p.m. – 4:30p.m. **Awards/Poster Session**

LASALLE ROOM

- 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. **A Guided Tour of an Onsite Soil Investigation**
Bill Kreznor – WRK Soil Testing
- 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. **Cosmetic Tattooing: Not Just Eyebrows Anymore**
Kate Ciampi-Shergold - SPCP
- 1:30p.m. – 2:30p.m. **Microbial Monitoring Strategies to Reduce Healthcare Acquired Infections**
Nathan Libby – Applied Food Diagnostics
- 2:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. **Sanitation for Food Safety, Using Sanitizer Test Strips**
Melissa Vaccaro – Paster Training

UTICA ROOM

- 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. **Tattoo Ink Safety Microbiological Concerns in Bottled Ink? VIRTUAL**
John Misock – Ceutical Labs
- 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. **Cannabis 2021: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly VIRTUAL**
Lezli Engelking - FOCUS and Greg Gerdeman - Weir Wellness
- 1:30p.m. – 2:30p.m. **Food Safety and Public Health Industry Update VIRTUAL**
Mandy Sedlak - Ecolab
- 2:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. **Retail Flexible Funding Model VIRTUAL**
Carolyn White – Food and Drug Administration



2021 IEHA Annual Educational Conference

Registration Form

Please use one form for each registrant. Enclose payment with form.

Name: _____

Company/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Registration:

IEHA Member Rate

Full Conference	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 8 Only	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 9 Only	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non-member Rate*

Full Conference	\$205.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 8 Only	\$155.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
November 9 Only	\$155.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

I wish to attend: In-person only Virtual only Both In-person and virtual

* Non-member registrations include 2022 IEHA Active Membership dues.

Verify membership status at: <https://ieha.coffeecup.com/Documents/MemberList.pdf>

Walk-in Registrations add \$15.00.

Make Check Payable to: **Illinois Environmental Health Association** Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail completed form and check to: Illinois Environmental Health Association
PO Box 7505
Rockford, IL 61126

Questions? Contact David Banaszynski at 847-781-2639; Email: bano53@sbcglobal.net

Register online @ <https://iehaonline.net>

Bill Marler - An accomplished attorney and national expert in food safety, [William \(Bill\) Marler](#) has become the most prominent foodborne illness lawyer in America and a major force in food policy in the U.S. and around the world. [Marler Clark, The Food Safety Law Firm](#), has represented thousands of individuals in claims against food companies whose contaminated products have caused life altering injury and even death.

Bill began litigating foodborne illness cases in 1993, when he represented Brianne Kiner, the most seriously injured survivor of the historic Jack in the Box E. coli O157:H7 outbreak, in her landmark \$15.6 million settlement with the company. The 2011 book, [Poisoned: The True Story of the Deadly E. coli Outbreak that Changed the Way Americans Eat](#), by best-selling author Jeff Benedict, chronicles the Jack in the Box outbreak and the rise of Bill Marler as a food safety attorney.

Tom Schaefer - In response to the world's health-conscious shift, aquatic facilities are taking a new approach to water care with secondary and supplemental treatment. While real-world validation has been lacking, aquatic facilities have newfound field data resources. This session will highlight independent case studies comparing the operational outcomes of Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) and UV water disinfection deployments. In addition to understanding the challenges and opportunities of these new technologies, attendees identify the risk-reducing motivations that are driving aquatic facilities to deploy them. Drawing from examples, the session will also address the technologies' operational considerations, risk vs. reward, and development of regulatory and code compliances for aquatic facilities. Learning Objectives:

- Apply takeaways from real-life case studies on the performance of AOP and UV supplemental water treatment technologies to improve water and air quality to meet the increased expectations of health and safety.
- Identify how AOP and UV technologies impacted real aquatic facilities' day-to-day operations, chemical, and energy use, and overall bottom-line.
- Compare and contrast AOP and UV systems from a functional technology perspective.
- Understand the cost-comparison results for purchasing, installing, operating, and maintaining AOP and UV systems in the independent field deployment studies.

Melissa Vaccaro has a Master of Science degree in Biology and Bachelor of Science in Education in Biology and Environmental Education, both from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. Melissa is the Vice President of Consulting for Paster Training, Inc. PTI works with top food and alcohol retailers, manufacturers, processors, and operations. As a core member of the PTI management team, Melissa leads, develops, and oversees the Consulting Division throughout the US; as well as, provides numerous public health related presentations, certification trainings and webinars. She and her team assist industry in the planning, development and facilitation of retail and manufacturing regulatory programs; such as, development of HACCP Plans for Specialized Processes, Process Reviews, FSMA Compliant Food Safety Plans, Food Defense Plans, Foreign Supplier Verification Programs, Intentional Adulteration, and Expert Witness Testimony.

Before joining the PTI Team, Melissa was with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services for nearly 25 years during which she had dedicated her career to the service of safe food and the prevention of foodborne illness. Melissa served as a Food Sanitarian and then as a Food Sanitation Program Specialist for the Department during her tenure working in both the manufacturing and retail industries.

Melissa is a Certified Professional in Food Safety (CP-FS), a Certified Professional in Food Management Professional (CPFM) and a Lead Trainer for the FSPCA courses: Preventive Controls for Human Food, Foreign Supplier Verification Program and Intentional Adulteration IAVA. She is an FDA Certified Retail Food Sanitation Officer, a PA Department Health Certified Health Officer, holds Advanced HACCP Certification, Prometric and ServSafe™ Trainer/Proctor Certification, and has TIPS and RAMP certification. Melissa is the co-author of the SURE™ HACCP book series and SURE™ Food Safety book series.

For 10 years, Melissa was an author for the Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals EDGE Magazines Food Protection Connection. She is active in several industry and government organizations, including the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials (CASA), The Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) and National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Melissa is the recipient of the 2015 CASA Award for outstanding service.

Mandy Sedlak provides technical and practical expertise in brand protection and is responsible for supporting customers compliance, establishing and maintaining standards and driving QA progress through systems, solutions and interventions in operations, health department compliance, and foodborne illness response. She also provides education and recommendations to help customers adopt best practices and mitigate risks in their day-to-day operations.

Mandy has 20+ years of experience in Food Safety, QA and procurement management with leading foodservice brands. She is also a member of the Ecolab Food Safety and Public Health Leadership team and multiple organizations including the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) and Conference for Food Protection (CFP).

Christopher Abel, CHMM, Senior Environmental Chemist, Master of Science, Colorado School of Mines, Environmental Science and Engineering 1997, Bachelor of Science, Butler University, Chemistry and Environmental Studies 1991

Over thirty years of experience in environmental engineering, chemistry and project management. Mr. Abel is familiar with various environmental regulations including Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Contract Laboratory Protocol. Familiar with various state regulatory programs including Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky

Testified as an expert witness in several litigation matters. Testified via expert reports, interrogatories, affidavits, depositions and courtroom testimony regarding allocation of costs for environmental investigation and remediation, the timing and sources of environmental releases, reasonableness of response costs, contaminant migration routes and pathways, and various other expert analyses.

Performed/Managed hundreds of residential, commercial, and industrial site assessments, site investigations, and remediation projects involving heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), petroleum and chlorinated solvents. Delineating the nature and extent of impacts, developed risk-based cleanup criteria and designed and implemented corrective actions. Performed a wide range of engineering and project management related work on hazardous and non-hazardous sites including retail chemical manufacturing plant, natural gas collection and compression stations, and a former nuclear weapons manufacturing site.

Bill Kreznor has practiced as a consulting soil scientist/soil classifier at William R. Kreznor & Associates, Inc. for 34 years. He is pleased to have provided soil characterization, onsite investigations, and testing services for septic systems, stormwater management, building sites, pond sites, in-ground pools, and wetland banking for individuals, corporations, and units of local government. Bill earned a BS in Forest Management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a MS in Agronomy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a member of the Soil Science Society of America, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association. He and his wife Nancy reside in Woodstock, Illinois. When not conducting onsite soil investigations, you'll find Bill in the Kishwaukee River wading for smallmouth bass or in his basement practicing his Fender P Bass.

Dave Schulenberg is the Director of Partner States for the National Ground Water Association. In this role, he is the Executive Director for the California Groundwater Association, Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals, The Michigan Ground Water Association, the Minnesota Water Well Association, and the Montana Water Well Drillers Association. He has been actively working with Associations in the Groundwater Industry for 20 years. He is a member of the Minnesota 3M Settlement Citizens and Business Workgroup, Children's Book author and outdoorsman.

Program Description: How do you share information about "Forever Chemicals" with you customers, when they learn their water systems has become contaminated? With over 5,000 variants, "PFAS" is the most used and understood phrase. As a contractor, you have a relationship with your customers that is well established and trusted. You need to understand how to relate PFAS to your customer and help educate them on steps they may need to take. This course will offer information to provide a better understanding for the Contractor on PFAS, how they can relate it to their customer, and how a State Association plays a larger role than initially thought.

Kenneth Thompson, MBA, CEC, PCIII, CHE, CCA I am currently a chef instructor at Joliet Junior College where I teach courses including introduction to professional cooking, product fabrication, applied foodservice sanitation, and nutrition. Prior to joining Joliet Junior College in 2015 I worked for private country clubs for 20 years. I have also worked for restaurants, hotels, and as a private chef. I earned my bachelor's degree from the Culinary Institute of America in 1996, earned a master's degree in business administration in 2019 from Lakeland University, and I am currently a doctoral candidate at the University of St. Francis, where I anticipate earning my doctorate in educational leadership in 2023.

John Misock is serving in his fourth career as Senior Consultant with Ceutical Labs, Inc. Flower Mound, TX. John retired from FDA's Office of Cosmetics and Colors in June 2019 where he served as an SME in the areas of personal care product microbiology and manufacturing (GMP's). Prior to FDA John served in a global capacity with Estee Lauder Companies responsible for regulatory compliance in all manufacturing facilities. In 1982 John took over the helm of Food and Drug Standards Manager for the State of Wyoming Department of Agriculture, where he became an internationally recognized leader in the adaptation of HACCP principles to regulatory programs. John was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture prior to leaving for Este Lauder.

Laura Carlin Cochran is a community initiatives coordinator with the DuPage County Health Department in Wheaton, Illinois. DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) received two federal Consumer Product Safety Commission grants in 2018 and 2021 to carry out Pool Safely grant program funded interventions. Our program's goal is to improve enforcement training and education on the Virginia Graeme Baker Act (VGB Act) and to increase public awareness of drowning prevention. Laura received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health in 2003 and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Community Health in 2001 from Northern Illinois University. In addition to coordination of DCHD's Pool Safely grant program, Laura also teaches public health courses for the UIC School of Public Health.

Iyana Simba currently serves as the City Programs Director at the Illinois Environmental Council where she oversees advocacy, coalition building, aldermanic relationships and organizing related to environmental issues before the City of Chicago. Over the last few years she has served several roles at IEC including Clean Water Policy Director, Clean Water Advocate and Policy Intern. In her most recent role as Clean Water Policy Director she oversaw coalition building, advocacy, and policy development related to water issues in Illinois. Iyana's work continues to ensure water among other environmental issues are salient to both the public and decision makers. Prior to working at the Council, she attended the University of Illinois at Chicago and graduated with honors with a degree in Public Policy and a Sustainable Cities minor.

Outside of her work, Iyana enjoys engaging in local politics and organizing. She has worked on a successful state senator campaign in Illinois. She is also a member of the Environmentalists of Color Network and the Chicago Urban League's Metropolitan Board.

Danny Ripley - Mr. Ripley has twenty-five years combined food safety experience within private industry and public local, state, and federal governments. He currently holds an Environmental Health Specialist 5 position with the Tennessee Department of Health. His current responsibilities include conducting food safety research through the CDC Environmental Health Specialist Network (EHS-Net), facilitating outbreak investigations within Tennessee, and conducting outbreak response training throughout Tennessee and surrounding states. His past work experiences include regulatory food inspection, food inspector standardization, food safety and outbreak response training, and outbreak investigation. During his career he has had the opportunity to participate in over 60 foodborne outbreaks that have ranged from local to multi-state outbreaks. He has received multiple work recognition awards during his employment in both private and public sectors and has co-authored multiple published, peer-reviewed food safety papers through his involvement with EHS-Net. This talk will present data and interpretation from a descriptive study conducted in Tennessee centered around specialized food processes in foodservice environments.

Joseph (Joe) Willmott is President of HealthSpace USA Inc. and HealthSpace Data Systems Ltd. a leading SaaS company providing services to health, agriculture, and consumer protection regulatory organizations across North America. He has extensive management expertise in strategic planning, marketing, and financing gained over the last 40 years, managing successful businesses in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the United States. Mr. Willmott has developed tens of millions of dollars of new revenue by locating, commercializing, and financing

new technologies and products for businesses and manufacturers. He has been a guest lecturer at universities and been a keynote speaker at important business seminars.

Vanessa Williams is an Animal Behaviorist at Wild Goose Chase. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in 2008 with two bachelor's degrees in Biology and Psychology and a concentration in Zoology and Behavior with studies specifically in birds and canines. As a member of the Audubon Society and WGC's resident bird nerd, Vanessa has been turning her talents and passions to helping create environmental balance for birds since 2010. Her primary focuses are on how excessive bird populations affect water quality, airfield wildlife management, creating bird biodiversity, and window collision prevention. Vanessa has presented research at numerous national and international conferences. She is also one of our canine trainers and volunteers in canine rescue. Wild Goose Chase is a Chicago based consulting and avian wildlife management practice dedicated to providing our clients with effective, cost efficient avian wildlife damage assessments and management plans through our knowledge of bird biology and animal behavior. With over 20 years of experience and research, WGC has formulated an approach that is both highly successful and conscientious. Our philosophy is predicated on a sound understanding of wildlife heritage and the responsibility it requires. In addition to nuisance bird management, WGC provides bird window collision prevention, beneficial bird attraction, property species surveys, and airfield wildlife consulting. With experienced staff containing a wide range of expertise, WGC has the ability to assist any client with any bird issue.

Tom Hughes is the Executive Director of the Illinois Public Health Association serving in this role since July of 2013. Before his appointment to this position, he was the Government Affairs Director and Public Health Consultant for the IPHA.

Before his move to the IPHA, Tom had a long career in state government spanning more than 32 years. He left the State of Illinois in 2008 after having served as Deputy Director of the Office of Health Protection at the Illinois Department of Public Health. As Deputy Director, Tom oversaw the operations of the three Illinois State laboratories, the Division of Food, Drugs and Dairy, Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases sections. His Office employed more than 400 people with a budget annually exceeding \$180 million dollars. During his tenure he dealt with the emergence of West Nile Virus, training for emergency response after 2001 and improved the emergency response of his office for natural and human-made disasters. Tom expanded HIV testing and screening for high-risk individuals including gay men and oversaw passage of landmark legislation for newborn screening for HIV to help eliminate the transmission from mother to child.

Tom has served in many positions in state government having worked for the Illinois House of Representatives where he staffed the Executive Committee, Labor, and Commerce Committee and managed appropriation and budget legislation. He was legislative liaison for the Illinois Department of Employment Security, appointed Deputy Comptroller of Illinois by Comptroller Loleta Didrikson, served as State Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka's Legislative Director and Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Wood.

Tom is originally from Mattoon, Illinois and Graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in Political Science and History.

Gayle Sobocinski, In 1999 I became a nationally certified instructor for the fundamentals of permanent makeup application, adding advanced instructions the following year. I hold credentials of CPCP, which is an International "Certification of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals" and SME being a "Subject Matter Expert". I am licensed in Florida and the State of Illinois and also worked the National Beauty show in Dublin, Ireland to expose them to the art of permanent cosmetic tattooing we offer in the States. I have practiced as a licensed electrolysis since 1989 in the State of Illinois. The ability to help and bring joy to people is my driving force! I've worked on clients with birth defects, accident victims, burn survivors and alopecia, and several other extenuating circumstances. I've assisted cancer patients, pre, during and post chemo, who have had breast reconstruction as well as those in need of their eyebrows or eyelashes to be enhanced. I have worked with many cases that required a complete overhaul of their esthetic look which enabled the client to regain inner peace.

Steve Wilson is a Groundwater Hydrologist who has been at the ISWS since 1983. Most of his research has been related to groundwater quantity and quality issues in the sand and gravel aquifers of Illinois. He has worked on numerous projects related to the Mahomet Aquifer, arsenic, private wells, and projects involving small water and wastewater systems, those most likely to be out of compliance with the SDWA and the CWA. Steve is currently involved in a number of varied projects: 1. managing the Private Well Class (www.privatewellclass.org), a free online program of education and outreach that helps private well owners better understand their responsibilities for managing their wells; 2. managing WaterOperator.org (www.wateroperator.org), a free online resource for water and wastewater operators that includes a national calendar and links to over 15,000 free, publicly available resources; 3. supporting an irrigation water withdrawal reporting system for the Illinois Water Inventory Program; and 4. managing data resources and outreach for the ISWS, including support for our monitoring well programs and long-term monitoring well networks.

Steve is a member of the NGWA, AWWA, WEF, ILRWA, and IGA. He served on the Education & Awareness, and Water Resources Sub-committees for NGWA. He is past-chair of the Small Systems Division of AWWA and served for 4 years on the Illinois Section AWWA Board. He is active on the ISAWWA Small Systems Committee, and serves on the WEF Operator Advisory Panel (OAP). He Co-Chaired the ENN Workgroup for the ACWI Subcommittee on Groundwater that developed a chapter of the national framework guidance on how to implement the national monitoring well network, supported by the USGS. He was also part of the WINSSS Center, a small system drinking water technology hub lead at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, that evaluated barriers to state acceptance of innovative drinking water technologies.

Kate Ciampi Shergold is the Executive Director of the Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. She has been in the permanent cosmetics industry since 1991 and previously owned a tattoo studio, Perfection Dermagraphics, in a Chicago suburb. She has a background in nursing as a cardiology diagnostic department administrator. Kate served on the Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals (SPCP) Board of Directors from 1994-1998 as president and secretary and received the Industry Leader Award.

She has represented the cosmetic tattoo industry as a speaker for many groups, such as the National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, the American Association of Cosmetology Schools, and the National Esthetic Teacher Training Conference. Internationally, Kate has presented in Belgium, England, and at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. She has previously served on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition of Esthetics and Related Associations and has represented cosmetic tattooing in a working group of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Currently, Kate is a member of the American Society of Association Executives, the Alliance of Food and Drug Officials Body Art Committee, and the Body Art Education Alliance. She also serves on the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Body Art Committee, through which Kate and her peers received NEHA Presidential Citations for their work on the NEHA Body Art Model Code and Annex.

Lezli Engelking is the Founder and CEO of the Foundation of Cannabis Unified Standards (FOCUS), located in Scottsdale, Arizona. She received her Bachelor of Science in Communications and Statistics from Arizona State University. Lezli's keen understanding of quality and safety, gained during her 12-year tenure in the pharmaceutical industry with Eli Lilly, prompted her to pivot and apply her expertise to the burgeoning cannabis industry. Bringing her over two decades of experience in the healthcare and nonprofit sectors to the cannabis industry, in 2012 Lezli opened the first chain of vertically integrated cannabis licenses in Phoenix, Arizona. During her time in this role, she gained a comprehensive understanding of the extensive quality and safety issues involved when producing and manufacturing cannabis at scale. The lack of understanding within the cannabis industry around producing safe, quality, and consistent cannabis products caused Lezli to pivot the direction of her work in the cannabis industry. In 2014, she sold all financial interest in anything related to cannabis to found FOCUS: The Cannabis Health & Safety Organization. FOCUS is an independent, 501c3 non-profit organization that develops cannabis specific standards and provides third-party accredited certification, training, and related services to the public and private sectors globally.

Dr. Greg Gerdeman is a neuroscientist, cannabinoid researcher and educator with expertise in the physiological actions of cannabis and the endocannabinoid system (ECS), as well as many facets of cannabis biology, cultivation, extraction and medicinal use. His Ph.D. dissertation in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University was one of the first

studies to discover endocannabinoids acting as so-called “retrograde messengers” in the brain, which has become a foundation to modern understanding of the ECS and the effects of cannabis. After 9 years as a college professor of biology, he started one of the first vertically integrated cannabis companies in Florida. He has developed operational experience at every level of seed-to-sale supply chains and quality assurance within the cannabis and hemp industries. Additionally, he co-founded Weir Wellness, a newly licensed medical cannabis dispensary in West Virginia, and he is Chief Scientist of TN Pharmaceuticals, a hemp CBD brand. Most recently, he is co-founder, President and CEO of NASHCX, a Nashville-based commodities exchange for the hemp industry.

Corine Peplinski is the Environmental Training Specialist for the Peoria City/County Health Department where she has held various positions for the last 13 years. She is responsible for the design, development, coordination, and implementation of outreach and training programs for the Environmental Health Division. Corine graduated magna cum laude from Northern Illinois University with a degree in Public Health and just completed her course work for a Master’s Degree in Food Safety from Michigan State University. She is also a Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner, Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian, and a Human Foods Preventive Controls Qualified Individual. Corine has a passion for food safety and especially enjoys working with small and local business. She enjoys finding new and innovative ways to solve problems and educate others.

Lenore Killam, DPA is a Clinical Instructor with the UIS Department of Public Health. Her interests are risk assessment and emergency preparedness for environmental hazards. She has a B.A. in Biology, a M.A. in Environmental Studies, and a DPA (Doctor of Public Administration), all from UIS. Before coming to UIS, she worked as the Manager of the Safety Inspection and Education Division of the Illinois Department of Labor. She is a fifth-degree black belt in Aikido and is the chief instructor of the Springfield school. She also enjoys singing.

Nathan Libbey is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for MEMP Service Corporation. Nathan has over 15 years of experience in the food safety and infectious disease diagnostics industries. He also serves as the Secretary for a K-8 school board in the Chicago area and is a board member for Common Threads, a non-profit that provides nutrition and cooking education to underserved communities. Nathan has a Master’s in Regulatory Affairs of Food and is completing an Executive Doctor of Law and Policy Degree at Northeastern University Boston.

Molly Gleason joined the Illinois Stewardship Alliance team in January 2014. As Communications Director, Molly oversees messaging, graphic design, marketing, and content editing for the Alliance. Molly also plays a large role in the Alliance's advocacy efforts, working with farmer members to build relationships with policymakers, state agencies, and partner organizations; draft and negotiate bills; and build campaigns.

Molly was raised on a third generation family farm in Elkhart, Illinois, and has always felt a strong connection to agriculture and the land, and also to travel and art. Growing up she was part of her local 4-H and FFA chapters. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Education from Illinois State University, and a Master's Degree in Communications from Purdue. In her spare time, you can find her in the kitchen testing out new recipes, dabbling with watercolors, and playing with her three backyard chickens.