



A Message From NECHA's President

*Lauri Gallimore BS, RN
President, New England College Health Association*

It is hard to believe that it has been six weeks since our combined NECHA/NYSCHA conference in beautiful Burlington, Vermont. The conference was a great success in both content and participation. We had over 330 colleagues gather for three days of varied, timely and comprehensive sessions that addressed our diverse membership of specialties. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, from the food choices and quality to the content and delivery of general session speakers and individual sessions. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the planning committee for their tireless dedication, outreach and hard work on making this conference so great!! I want to also thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback to us regarding the conference. The importance of this feedback cannot be stressed enough. It is critical to the planning of future conferences, including our ability to provide sessions that our membership want most, menu planning and the integration of other social events.

Our theme of Bridging the Gap: Collaborating to Succeed was well executed and our work continues. We talked a lot about how collaboration with each other within our individual departments, Health Services, and Institutions can create positive change. Becoming more involved in NECHA is an extension of the important work of collaboration.

There are many ways to become involved including joining the planning committee for our annual conference, submitting a proposal to present at our annual conference, becoming a member of the board or volunteering to assist with the conference. It is through our networking and connecting with one another that we can do the meaningful work that we all do. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please [contact](#) Kim Daly, our new President-elect and Program chair for the annual conference in Portland, Maine next Fall.

The call for proposals will be open in January. The sessions range from 3-hour pre-conferences to 90-minute individual sessions. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge, research, or projects with your constituents. If you have never presented at a conference before and have questions, please reach out to me. Myself, and the entire board are dedicated to supporting our membership in many ways, including mentoring and being available as a resource.

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Through our collaboration, we gain an awareness of other's great work. Please consider nominating a colleague for an ACHA award. The yearly Call for Nominations for Fellows, Named Awards, Best Practices Awards, and Affiliate New Professionals Awards. Please see the ACHA website for nominations criteria and processes. New Fellows and award recipients are honored at the Awards and Fellows Celebration Dinner during the ACHA Annual Meeting.

Positivity and self-care were also prevalent themes in our conference. The importance of gratitude, a positive attitude, and making time for self-care, directly impacts the quality of our lives, as well as the care we provide to our students. My hope is that each of you finds time to relax and rejuvenate in whatever way works best for you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season and a happy new year!

Warm regards,

Lauri

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