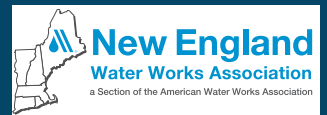


NEWEA/NEWWA 2021 Young Professional Summit

VIRTUAL EVENT PROGRAM



Thursday, February 11
Thursday, February 18
Friday, February 26



2021 NEWEA/NEWWA Young Professional Summit

The NEWEA and NEWWA Young Professionals (YP) Committees are proud to present the 5th Annual YP Summit. This event will be happening entirely virtually in conjunction with the 2021 NEWEA Annual Conference. The content will focus on diversity, inclusion, and environmental justice in the water and wastewater industry.

February 11, 2021 • 2:00 – 4:30 PM EST

Environmental Justice—Equity in Law and Policy

Moderator:

Sam Downes, Tighe & Bond

Assistant Moderator:

Caitlin DeWolfe, Tighe & Bond

Logging on— WordCloud Activity	2:00 – 2:10 PM
Opening Remarks: Colin O'Brien Past NEWEA YP Committee Chair Renee Lanza, NEWWA YP Committee Chair	2:10 – 2:20
Icebreaker	2:20 – 2:35
Panel Session: Jameson Davis, Vermont Law School Leah Bamberger, City of Providence, RI Neenah Estrella-Luna, StarLuna Consulting	2:35 – 3:35
Break	3:35 – 3:45
Breakout Sessions	3:45 – 4:15
Report out	4:15 – 4:25
Closing Remarks	4:25 – 4:30

Jameson Christopher Davis (he/him/his) is a Juris Doctor



candidate at Vermont Law School and a former Selectboard Member for the Town of Hartford, Vermont with a passion for combating environmental harm through innovative solutions. During his time as a student at Vermont Law School thus far, Davis has earned a Master of Environmental Law and Policy Degree. He also helped found the Environmental Justice Law Society, of which he is now in his second term as co-chair. Davis also completed a full academic year as an Advanced Clinician in the Environmental Justice Clinic at Vermont Law School.

Leah Bamberger, Director of Sustainability of Providence, RI



Leah has a BA from the College of Charleston in Political Science and Environmental Studies and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Leah's responsibilities as Sustainability Director for Providence include identifying opportunities to reduce the City's energy costs, working with community groups, residents, and businesses to implement the City's first comprehensive sustainability action plan, and transitioning residents to the Recycle Together program. Under Mayor Elorza's leadership, Leah has prioritized centering racial equity in this work, demonstrated by the launch of Equity in Sustainability Initiative in 2016 and the release of the Climate Justice Plan in 2019.

Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna, Owner/Principal, StarLuna Consulting
Dr. Estrella-Luna is an environmental justice scholar and



policy advocate who is working directly on the nexus of water and civil rights. She is an active member of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the US Civil Rights Commission and recently conducted empirical research for a study on access to clean and safe water in Massachusetts, which should be published by the Commission shortly. She was formerly the board chair for ACE (Alternatives for Community & Environment), a statewide EJ organization (see <https://starluna.net/>).

February 18, 2021 • 2:00 – 4:30 PM EST

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)—Actions for Young Professionals

Moderator:

Adrian D’Orlando, Brown and Caldwell

Assistant Moderator:

Mary Danielson, Tighe & Bond

Logging on— WordCloud Activity	2:00 – 2:10 PM
Icebreaker	2:10 – 2:25
Panel Session: Erica Lotz, PE, ENV SP, Stantec Andrea Hall, PHR, SHRM-CP, Brown and Caldwell Rachel Gilbert, PE, Woodard & Curran Michael Jefferson, The Metropolitan District	2:25 – 3:35
Break	3:35 – 3:45
Breakout Sessions	3:45 – 4:15
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Erica Lotz, PE, ENV SP, Principal and Project Manager, Stantec



Erica has been with Stantec for over 20 years and is the Water Practice Leader for New England. She focuses on serving a diverse group of utilities on water infrastructure projects throughout New England. Erica is currently President Elect for New England Water Works Association and is passionate about teaching and mentoring young growing professionals.

Andrea Hall, PHR, SHRM-CP, Senior Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Brown & Caldwell



Andrea Hall is the newly appointed senior director of diversity and inclusion of Brown and Caldwell. Throughout her career, Andrea has focused on creating and leading company-wide diversity and inclusion strategies and strengthening equitable processes for global organizations. Her

experience includes improving diverse talent hiring, launching employee empowerment platforms, enhancing career progression policies, developing solutions to interrupt process and procedural bias, and driving diversity and inclusion education and awareness.

Rachel Gilbert, PE, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager and Principal, Woodard & Curran



Rachel Gilbert is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager at Woodard and Curran and has been active in the organization’s Diversity and Inclusion program since 2015. Rachel works to develop D&I programs and plans that improve a culture of equity and inclusion for staff members at all stages of

their career, and drives Woodard and Curran’s D&I strategy by partnering with leadership to develop and implement plans, programs, and metrics that attract, retain, and engage a diverse workforce. Rachel has worked as an engineer for 20+ years and understands how diversity, equity, and inclusion foster a thriving workplace.

Michael Jefferson, Supplier Diversity Manager, The Metropolitan District of CT (MDC)



Michael Jefferson drives the MDC’s diversity initiatives and programs, including: Small Contractor Development Programs that provide diverse contractors with industry education opportunities and outreach meetings; On the Job Training for Young Adults in which the MDC partners with the

Community Renewal Team’s Youthbuild Program to support young adults in getting the training and skills needed for a career in the industry; and the Diversity Internship Program which is a summer program targeted specifically for college students from diverse backgrounds. In 2014, Michael was awarded the US EPA’s Administrator’s award for Outstanding State, Local, or Tribal Office Performance Achievement.

February 26, 2021 • 2:00–4:30 PM EST

Environmental Justice—The Role of Regulations and Research

Moderator:

Isabella Cobble, Tighe & Bond

Assistant Moderator:

Adrian D’Orlando, Brown and Caldwell

Logging on— WordCloud Activity	2:00 – 2:10 PM
Recap of previous two sessions—Introduction to current session	2:10 – 2:15
Panel Session: Deneen Simpson, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Erica Kyzmir-McKeon, Conservation Law Foundation Osamu Kumasaka, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning	2:15 – 3:00
Breakout Sessions	3:00 – 3:20
Report out	3:20 – 3:30
Closing Remarks: Jennifer Kelly Lachmayr NEWEA Past President Lisa Gove, NEWWA President	3:30 – 3:40
Break	3:40 – 3:45
Happy Hour Networking Reception	3:45 – 4:30

Deneen Simpson, Director of Environmental Justice at Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)



Deneen Simpson advises senior leadership at MassDEP about Environmental Justice issues, concerns, activities, and opportunities and informs MassDEP staff about their requirements under the 2017 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs EJ Policy and other authorities. Ms. Simpson conducts outreach and

shares opportunities with the residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to ensure everyone has an opportunity to fully participate in MassDEP’s program and key agency activities. She also participates in monthly EPA led EJ All State and Quarterly New England States EJ calls to stay up to date about EJ activities on a local and national level. She previously served as a Paralegal in MassDEP’s Southeast Regional’s Office of General Counsel and as the region’s Enforcement Coordinator. Prior to that Ms. Simpson served as the MassDEP’s Docket Clerk/Case Administrator in the Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution. She is a graduate from Kinyon-Campbell Business School and the Commonwealth’s Management Certificate Program.

Erica Kyzmir-McKeon, Staff Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation



Erica Kyzmir-McKeon is a Staff Attorney in CLF’s Clean Air & Water and Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice Programs. Before assuming the role of Staff Attorney, Erica was a Senior Fellow with CLF’s Farm & Food Program, where she coordinated the Rhode Island Legal Food Hub. Prior to joining CLF, Erica worked as a public

interest attorney with a focus on economic justice and consumer protection issues. Most recently she was a staff attorney for the Project on Predatory Student Lending at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, where she represented individuals who were defrauded by for-profit schools. Erica received her JD from Brooklyn Law School, where she was an Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow, and her BA in Cultural Anthropology from Haverford College. Erica is admitted to practice in New York and Maine, and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

Osamu Kumasaka, Graduate Student, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning



Osamu is a Master of City Planning candidate interested in community-led planning, environmental justice, and the intersection of climate resilience and housing security. Before coming to MIT, Osamu was a junior associate at the Consensus Building Institute, where he managed collaborative, multi-stakeholder conflict

resolution and engagement processes on behalf of nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Osamu is a Somerville Climate Forward Ambassador and volunteers as a mediator for landlord-tenant disputes in the Somerville District Court.

Summit Sponsors

