


AIHA™

Carolinan
LOCAL SECTION

President's Message

I feel privileged to be serving as President of the Carolina Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. As we consider the coming year of service, professional development, and cooperation, I am once again conscious of the significant responsibility we share in safeguarding the health and well-being of workers and in enhancing the practice of industrial hygiene.

Our profession is changing rapidly. As new opportunities come up, we must adapt, lead, and stay connected with each other to meet the challenges ahead.

Today, industrial hygienists work in environments shaped by automation, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, nanotechnology, new chemicals, and changing work methods. These changes can create hazards that traditional approaches may not fully address.

At the same time, AI and data-driven tools bring great opportunities to our field. They help us analyze data, spot trends, improve risk assessments, and make better decisions. Still, we need to make sure technology supports our judgment, experience, ethics, and assessments, not replaces them.

What we need to do is accept innovation while maintaining the scientific rigor and ethical standards that characterize industrial hygiene.

Another key challenge is ensuring industrial hygiene remains visible and valued in our workplaces. Prevention is hard to measure because success often means nothing happened—no illness, no exposure, no incident.

Industrial hygienists are increasingly required to use the language of business leadership while maintaining our dedication to worker health. We have to show how preventing exposure, using engineering controls, managing risk, and promoting occupational health all contribute to business continuity, productivity, employee retention, and the organization's resilience.

We have an opportunity to do more than just identify hazards. We can become stronger strategic partners in how organizations make decisions.

I encourage all members to get involved by attending our PDCs and Conferences, sharing your experience, mentoring someone new, or bringing fresh voices into our group. Most importantly, let's keep asking how we can make industrial hygiene and EHS more effective, innovative, and relevant.

This year, the board has introduced a special discount to encourage new members to attend our conference. Members who refer first-time attendees for the conference will receive a discount on the next spring conference. We have already had a strong response to our special discount for new members. We urge existing members to promote this discount to attract first-time attendees. Moreover, we ask members to involve students in our local section conference, as this will aid their networking and professional development.

Sincerely,

Ushang Desai

President

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AIHA Agenda

September 23-25, 2026

Embassy Suites – Kingston Resorts Myrtle Beach, SC

Wednesday, September 23th

12 Noon - PDC Registration Opens-Windsor

Professional Development Course

1:00-5:00 pm

Preventing the Next Tragedy: Lessons from Combustible Dust Incidents

Chris Giusto, PE

Hallam-ICS

Thursday, September 24th

7:30-8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

Professional Development Course

8:00 am-12:00 pm

From Mobile Apps to Loud Arenas : Applied Research on Occupational Exposure to Heat Stress and Noise

Jo Anne Balanay

Professor, East Carolina University

10:00 AM - Conference Registration Opens-Windsor

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch Buffet

Conference Opening Session

1:00-1:05 pm

President Welcome

President – AIHA Carolinas

1:05-2:05 pm

Ethics

Rich Cravener

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

2:05-2:30 pm

Vendor Introductions/Break

2:30-3:30 pm

Industry Profile – Wolfsped

Taylor Moore – EHS Manager

3:30-4:00 pm

Vendor Break

4:00- 5:00

Beyond the PEL: Understanding Exposure Limits Across Occupational, Environmental, and Indoor Environments

Grant Quiller

Senior Industrial Hygienist – OEH Solutions

5:30-7:00 pm-Presidential Reception (Seaside Vista-above Black Drum)

7:00 pm-Buffet Dinner-Seaside Vista

Friday, September 25th

7:30-8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:30 am

All The Small Things

Dusty Ott

Corporate Industrial Hygienist – SKC Inc.

9:30-10:00 am

Break/Vendor Interaction

10:00-10:45 am

IH Instruments, Gotchas, Tips and Tricks

Randy Walkowiak – Raeco Rents

10:45-11:45 am

AIHA Board Update

Carra Herring – Industrial Hygiene Manager

Martin Marietta

12:00 pm

Closing Comments, Adjournment



Carolinas
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PDC Spotlight



PDC SPEAKER *Spotlight*

Chris Giusto, P.E.



Wednesday, September 23
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

SESSION TITLE:

**Preventing the Next Tragedy:
Lessons from Combustible
Dust Incidents**

Chris Giusto is the National Director of Combustible Dust Safety at Hallam-ICS and has more than 20 years of experience in mechanical and process engineering. A licensed Professional Engineer in 31 states, he specializes in managing combustible dust hazards and NFPA-compliant system design. Chris founded Hallam-ICS's Combustible Dust Safety Services in 2018 and has been an instructor for the North Carolina Industrial Ventilation Course since 2021. He and his team bring a practical, solutions-focused approach to helping organizations improve safety and achieve regulatory compliance.



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AIHA CAROLINAS FALL PDC/CONFERENCE
September 23–25, 2026 | Myrtle Beach, SC



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PDC Spotlight



PDC SPEAKER *Spotlight*

Dr. Jo Anne G. Balanay



Thursday, September 24
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SESSION TITLE:

**From Mobile Apps to Loud Arenas:
Applied Research on Occupational
Exposure to Heat Stress and Noise**

Dr. Jo Anne G. Balanay is a Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Environmental Health Sciences Program, East Carolina University. She is a certified industrial hygienist since 2008. She earned her MS and PhD in Environmental Health–Industrial Hygiene from the University of Minnesota and University of Alabama at Birmingham, respectively. Her research interests include occupational exposure assessment of physical hazards, such as noise, heat stress and ultraviolet radiation, and respiratory protection.



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Real-world solutions.
Safer workplaces.**



AIHA CAROLINAS FALL PDC/CONFERENCE
September 23–25, 2026 | Myrtle Beach, SC



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Spring 2027
March 3-5, 2027
Hilton University
Charlotte, NC

Fall 2027
September 22-24, 2027
Embassy Suites
Myrtle Beach, SC



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Carolinan Section - AIHA

Fall PDC and Conference September 23-25, 2026

Embassy Suites @Kingston Resorts, Myrtle Beach, SC

Registration Form

Conference Registration

Circle One

Member \$250
Nonmember \$300

First Time Conference Attendee

Circle One

Member \$200
Nonmember \$250

PDC-Registration

Circle One

Member \$250
Nonmember \$300

Exhibit Space (each table) \$450

Carolinan Section Annual Dues

Member \$35 Student \$10

Method of Payment

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Check box if this is an address change ☐

**Make Checks payable to AIHA Carolinas
Section and Mail Registration Form To:**

AIHA Carolinas Section

Attn: Connie McElroy-Bacon

PO Box 37492

Raleigh, NC 27627-7492

Mobile: 919-608-1606

Phone: 919-233-8400 (Fax)

cbacon@mindspring.com

Amount enclosed: _____

REGISTER ONLINE AT

www.aiha-carolinas.org



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Thanks to the AIHA Carolinas Spring Vendors



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ELEARNING

Welcome to the 2026 eLearning Subscription! Your group's access has been established for the 2026 eLearning Subscription program in the online classroom and you can begin viewing content now. Please note that this program runs from January 2026 through December 2026.

Here are the action items to take this month to maximize your participation in the program:

1. Login to the [online classroom](#) and verify that you see a tab to access your group's content. If you do not see this tab, please get in contact with us so we can research the issue. If you don't know your login credentials, please use the forgot password link on the login page to have them sent to you.
2. Review the information posted on the [2026 eLearning Subscribers page](#). Here you will find information about upcoming live webinars, OnDemand content already added to your classroom, accessing your AIHA transcript and FAQs about using the system. Bookmark this page in case you need to review it later.


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**Carolina's
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The Pat Curran Memorial Scholarship

Pat began his career in North Carolina State Government in 1972 and worked in the Division of Public Health in various capacities until his retirement in 2004. Pat continued to consult with industry and teach during his retirement. Through his working and retirement years, Pat served on many boards and committees and his greatest pleasures were helping people with their occupational and environmental health concerns and mentoring the next generation of safety and health professionals. He served as an Adjunct Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill: Environmental Sciences and Engineering-Gillings School of Global Public Health. Pat also taught at ECU in the Master of Science in Occupational Safety Program-College of Engineering and Technology.

Pat's outstanding work and contributions did not go unnoticed and upon his retirement from the State of North Carolina, he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from the Governor in recognition of his extraordinary service to the state. In 2010, Pat received the Warren Cook Award from the Carolinas Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association for outstanding contributions to the profession of industrial hygiene.

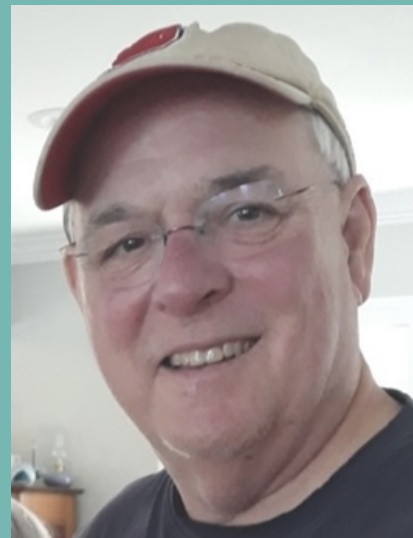
Most recently, Pat received the Robert T. Hughes Memorial Award from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists which recognizes outstanding individuals in the field of industrial ventilation.

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

In awarding the Pat Curran Memorial Scholarship, the recipient should be:

- Enrolled at the graduate or undergraduate level at a university in Carolina's Local Section geographic area in an ABET-accredited program with an emphasis in occupational health.
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 scale, or a B average.

For more information, to donate, or to apply for the scholarship, please visit the [The Pat Curran Memorial Scholarship | AIHA](#) found on the AIHA website.



John "Pat" Curran