

2024 IEHA Award Winners

EH Professional of the Year: *Represents a professional role model for all members, goes above and beyond the normal excellence by teaching, training, & striving to upgrade their own departments and also the total environment as a whole.*

Winner: Robert (Rob) McCaulley

Nomination Summary: Rob goes above and beyond in his professional duties regarding running our environmental health department. He is dedicated to ensuring our contractors are educated and well-trained by providing information on upcoming certification classes, talking them through how to install septic properly, and rearranging his schedule to accommodate our contractors. He also never denies help when asked by a fellow worker, a neighboring county, or a contractor. He displays what "Iowa Nice" truly is, all while enforcing our policy every day. He also communicates well with our program holders in other counties and does not shy away from making sure people feel taken care of and secure before they leave his office. He is one of a kind and we are proud to call him our coworker and friend.

Congrats!



**EH Professional
of the Year**

**Robert (Rob)
McCaulley**



Galen Robertson Memorial Award: Represents a person in the field of food inspections who demonstrate a belief in the importance of inspections. Uses practical and common sense in the inspection process, displays a professional and courteous manner while conducting an inspection.

Winner: Jesse Bockelman

Nomination Summary: It is with great pleasure that I write to you and submit Jesse Bockelman as a candidate for the Galen Robertson Memorial award. Jesse is an outstanding example of a committed, dedicated, and genuinely passionate environmental health specialist. He is a person that believes in the benefit of continuous learning and is both high moral and ethical standards. I am pleased to nominate him for the recognition he deserves.

Jesse is an environmental health specialist II at Johnson County Public Health (JCPH). He has been with our program since February of 2020. Jesse joined the program just a few weeks prior to covid shutting down what we all considered normal life. Nevertheless, he persevered to complete his training in a more untraditional route than previous staff. During the summer of 2022, our food program experienced a loss of staff. The food program went from a group of four to Jesse and myself. During this time, I transitioned to a new role, effectively leaving Jesse as the primary food program field inspector. As our food program was being rebuilt, Jesse covered inspections, pre-openings, temp events, complaints, and any other needs. In October he was promoted to the EHS II senior position. This included taking on the role as our lead trainer for new and senior staff. On top of primary duties, he is entrusted with field training and certifying new food program staff. He is also the Johnson County food program standard and will standardize new and senior staff. Since August of 2022 Jesse has successfully completed all local and DIAL (Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) training requirements for three new food program staff. Training and developing a well-rounded field inspector can take several months, a combination of office and field experience training. Jesse has a tremendous amount of patience which is incredibly valuable for new staff learning to work in challenging and complex situations. Jesse's ability to ensure each new EHS receives the attention needed to learn and develop is a testament to his belief that proper training is an investment in our program and community.

When Jesse is not training and mentoring new staff, he keeps busy with other duties. For over a year Jesse has served as our Servsafe proctor. Appointments can be made by members of the local food community to take their food managers exam. Additionally, Jesse assists me with NEHA/FDA FFM grant projects. This also includes work towards maintenance and advancement of our FDA retail standards. Jesse is an avid presenter and public speaker. Annually he gives food safety presentations to local partners including the University of Iowa and public schools. He attends local ISU Extension Office Food Manager courses held in Iowa City and participates in a class question and answer session. He is our lead contact with DIAL when it comes to illness outbreaks and regularly works with their staff when they are onsite for environmental assessments. He believes in maintaining strong positive relationships with our state and local stakeholders, and the local community in general. Jesse also volunteers on the JCPH Performance Management team. This group ensures that our entire health department maintains tracking of current key performance indicators as well as identifying new areas to measure improvement and public health success. Our health department is also currently preparing for PHAB re-accreditation. Jesse is a member of two domain teams that assist with preparing required measure content and compliance.

Jesse is an asset to Johnson County Public Health and the community. I could not ask for a more reliable, consistent, and trustworthy staff member to support me. He is a true professional of environmental health and deserves the recognition of his peers.



Congrats!

**Galen Robertson
Memorial Award:
Jesse Bockelman**

Health Department Award: Represents a group of people who are dedicated to public health. This department must support, initiate and help to expand the public health needs of their county, city or community.

Winner: Black Hawk County Health Department

Nomination Summary: The Black Hawk County Public Health Department has made substantial improvements in the last couple of years. They were the first public health department in Iowa to participate in Equity Training from the University of Iowa Public Health Program. The department went through a complete re-branding process with new logos, a change in name from Black Hawk County Health Department to Black Hawk County Public Health Department, created a new user-friendly website, and maintain a comprehensive social media presence to keep the public informed of all the services and activities the department provides. The Black Hawk County Public Health Department strives to help the community by creating a presence. The employees of the department work together to provide help and support the community. Many members of the Black Hawk County Public Health Department have taken roles outside of the department to promote public health. It is these dedicated Health Department employees that make Black Hawk County Public Health Department a leader amongst other Departments.



**Health
Department
Award**

**Black Hawk
County Health
Department**



Rookie of the Year: Represents a person with no more than 3 years of experience. Must not have had prior experience from any previous environmental employment. Rookie who has distinguished themselves by meritorious services to their agency and the EH field.

Winner: Allison Roderick

Nomination Summary: In her short tenure as the environmental health specialist for Webster County, Allison Roderick has paved a quick path to success with the Grants to Counties program. Starting in her position in June of 2022, she has made it a priority to spend every dollar allotted to Webster County, and in December 2023, she had spent all of her annual budget, with 6 months left in the fiscal year. With a background in marketing, it's no surprise that she has experienced success promoting the Grants to Counties program to her county. Allison's work has been promoted in Iowa, and across the country by various media outlets:

- Featured in an article with [KFF Health News](#) on October 24, 2023.

The article was also picked up by [USA Today](#), [News Medical Life Sciences](#) and [The Daily Yonder](#)

- Interview with Mark Moran with [Public News Service](#) on October 27, 2023

- Featured in an article November 1, 2023

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2023-11-01/rural/rural-ia-boosts-efforts-to-test-private-wells/a87010-1#>

- Interview with Dr. Marc Siegel, NYU Langone Health on [Doctor Radio](#) (SiriusXM) on November 14, 2023

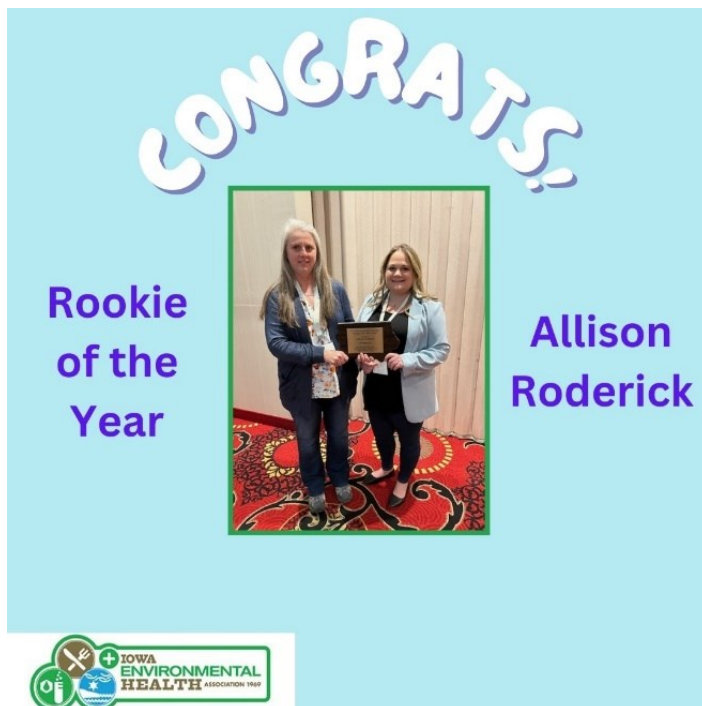
Allison has dramatically increased the county's utilization of Grants to Counties dollars.

Since FY2022, expenditures have increased by 50%. Expenditures submitted for the current FY2024 have already exceeded the allotted budget.

Percent of grant expended

- 2022 - 60%
- 2023 - 140% (received additional funds)
- 2024 to date - 100% (with 6 months left in the fiscal year)

I look forward to the future success of Webster County's Grants to Counties program and the best practices that Allison continues to share with her peers across Iowa as a result of her work.



Industry: Shows leadership and concern for the environment. Must make a definite contribution to public health. Works with the state, county, and city governments

Winner: Weiss Septic (Jeff Weiss)

Nomination Summary: Jeff Weiss runs his business with integrity and is a responsible, down to earth guy. He does what he says he will and always follows the code while at the same time being creative with a septic system that will work in difficult situations. He always get his fees and maps in with no delay and is good about giving notice about an installation coming up. I appreciate working with him and being able to trust him to do what he says.

Industry Award

Weiss Septic
Jeff Weiss



Distinguished Service Award: Represents a member who has served on IEHA committees, panels, boards and has displayed a true respect for the ideals of this organization and environmental health.

Winner: Jared Parmater



Local Board of Health: Represents a local board of health for the work they have done in the supporting, initiating, and or expanding public health programs.

Winner: Chickasaw County Board of Health

Nomination Summary: Our Board of Health is made up of five members of various backgrounds. Toni Friedrich (registered nurse/medical examiner/rescue squad/first responder), Cindy Shoemaker (EMT/bus driver/first responder), Jeremy McGrath (paramedic/former ambulance owner/rescue squad), Joan Knoll (former county auditor), and Dr. Lucas Brinkman (physician/medical examiner). This vast background has proven to make our Board of Health a strong one. Going way back to Covid times our board has been very involved by volunteering, checking if we needed anything, and being very supportive of what we do. To this day they continue to be involved with the ever-changing health issues, reviewing policies, attending agency drills, QAPI meetings, budget discussions, CHA CHIP projects for the community, etc. Their support and involvement have been very effective in expanding our Public Health agency and the programs we have to offer to our community. The Board of Health members are all huge advocates for Public Health and always looking for ways to raise awareness about different Public Health issues. I could think of no one more deserving of this award than them.



IEHA Scholarship Winner: Evelyn Wertzberger

CONGRATS!



**IEHA Scholarship Winner
Evelyn Wertzberger**

