



The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1994

Presented to

NELSON E. FABIAN

The presentation of the Walter F. Snyder Award for 1994 recognizes the immeasurable contribution Nelson Fabian has made to the way in which environmental health is practiced in this country today.

His outstanding accomplishments are not measured in the numbers of septic tanks installed or restaurants inspected or new processes designed. Nelson's accomplishments relate to providing an atmosphere in which environmental professionals can feel knowledgeable and secure.

He hasn't invented new technology for water treatment, found better ways to clean-up hazardous waste or found a way to fund environmental health activities, but he has worked to provide opportunities for others who work at the intersection of public health and the environment to do all those things and to better understand the problems and solutions that assure protection.

In his 10 years as Executive Director of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), his perceptive analysis of issues and the needs of the profession has resulted in the development, promotion and implementation of numerous initiatives to improve the practitioner's performance and the profession of environmental health.

His efforts have resulted in the development of progressive, quality education and credentialing efforts, provid-

ing skills, insights and experience that NEHA members take to their jobs. For example, he was a pioneer in the promotion of computer-based training (CBT), which takes training to the practitioner, and recently expanded the availability of CBT training materials while utilizing private sector capital to finance the arrangement.

He was also instrumental in public promotion of the RHSP credential to provide credibility and create awareness of a level of basic skills and minimum standards needed for hazardous materials cleanup and handling.

His work within NEHA also influenced the field of environmental health and protection. As part of his tireless efforts to move the organization forward, he managed the process of upgrading the *Journal of Environmental Health* to meet the varied needs of environmental professionals.

He also worked to improve the dialogue among individuals in the public and private sector to bring groups and individuals together to discuss and resolve mutual concerns and problems.

Nelson's understanding of environmental issues and his ability to assemble a diverse group and move it toward a solution have been major factors in the success of NEHA projects – all to the direct benefit of the environmental health profession.

Members of NEHA's Board of Directors consider Nelson "not only a manager but a visionary with great enthusiasm and energy and a very clear focus on the goal of providing environmental health professionals with the tools and vision they need to protect public health and the environment."

He is described by a NEHA member as "one who leads by example – whether it is through his work ethic, his dedication to promoting the profession of environmental health or his personal commitment to excellence, he is viewed by many as an exemplary leader."

The member continues, "One illustration...of his leadership is simply his ability to encourage people to give of themselves for the betterment of the profession (and) recognize a person's particular skills. By employing this leadership style, Nelson has assisted many, many of us to realize our personal and professional potential while at the same time accomplishing needed tasks for the profession. A manager directs this to happen; a leader sets the stage for it to happen. Nelson leads."

What perhaps speaks most eloquently in support of Nelson Fabian as a noteworthy recipient of the 1994 Award is the similarity noted by many between his ideals and contributions and those of Walter Snyder.

Both worked diligently to improve their profession, and they both did it

with a true sense of professionalism and with an abiding faith in the people who work in the profession. As Walter Snyder worked to effect positive change through NSF by bringing together providers, regulators and consumers and empowering them to work together to improve the quality of our lives and the environment, so has Nelson worked to advance the environmental health professional through NEHA by providing ways to better understand the problems and to find the solutions needed.

One NEHA official says that because of Nelson, "there are literally thousands of environmental health workers who go to work and do a better job every day because something Nelson has either said or done has had an impact on the way those people feel about themselves and their profession." "When one considers the importance of environmental health activities to the health and well-being of our nation and Nelson's impact on the people who carry out those activities, the enormity of his contributions becomes more clearly focused."

NSF *International* and the National Environmental Health Association take great pleasure in honoring Nelson Fabian for these many contributions by presenting to him the 1994 Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality.

Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award

Callis F. Atkins
Ralph C. Pickard
William A. Broadway, Jr.
James E. Jump
Charles L. Senn
Charles C. Johnson, Jr.
Larry J. Gordon

Ray B. Watts
John G. Todd
Charles H. Giltham
Emil T. Chanlett
John R. Bagby, Jr.
William Anderson
William G. Walter

Albert H. Brunwasser
George A. Kupper
Mark D. Hollis
Boyd T. Marsh
Harvey F. Collins
Trenton G. Davis
Robert Galvan
Amer El-Ahraf

