

# Aqualia (Shauna) Nelson, B.S., M.A., REHS/RS

2021 DR. BAILUS WALKER, JR. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARENESS AWARD RECIPIENT



[The National Environmental Health Association](#)

(NEHA) is pleased to announce that Aqualia (Shauna) Nelson is the recipient of the 2021 Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr. Diversity & Inclusion Awareness Award. NEHA introduced the Walker Diversity Award in 2020 and Ms. Nelson is the first recipient. Going forward, the award will be

her career, Shauna has been an avid champion for promoting environmental health to create healthy platforms inclusive to all. From conducting investigations of environmental and public health hazards and natural disasters in diverse communities, to serving on environmental and public health task forces addressing ways of lessening environmental disparities in under-resourced or minority communities, Shauna continuously advocates for positive change. She participates in diversity and inclusion (D&I) nationwide campaigns, including targeting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics diverse groups, and supporting people with disabilities. Additionally, Shauna assists in advancing the FDA's D&I efforts by drafting strategic assessment messaging to promote participation and encouragement throughout the workplace to ensure differences are embraced, inclusive culture is fostered, and to provide a space where everyone can thrive.

Shauna's commitment to D&I extends beyond her work-life and stretches into her personal life as well. She serves as an ally for underrepresented groups, advocates for, and amplifies marginalized voices on issues impacting their livelihood. Shauna has served as a Photographer taking action shoots to capture event activities at the AccessAbility Summit, a Discussion Moderator for the Conversation 360°, facilitating meaningful conversations between disabled residents and the City of San Antonio (COSA) representatives.

Shauna's work at COSA overseeing HUD-funded projects exemplifies her resounding