



**Pete Cook Founder's Award Evaluation Form/Cover Sheet**

**Nominee**

**Nominator**

Zehra Schneider  
Graham, CHMM,  
REM

**Name/CHMM #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a digital photograph of the nominee with this submittal.

=====DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE=====

**Reviewer's name:**

**Review Date:**

This award is given to a certified member for outstanding accomplishments in support of the AHMP by providing long-term service or continuous professional achievements while promoting the vision and mission of the AHMP and the integrity of the CHMM credential. Documentation and specific examples are required. This award carries a five (5) year exemption from AHMP dues. Because the criteria below are subjective, keep good notes and be ready to discuss with other members of the committee. *NOTE: Reviewers must be provided with descriptions of previous recipients to ensure continuity of the high level of performance required to earn this award.*

<u>Criteria</u>	Scoring Method	Reviewer's Score
1. Does the data provided demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in support of the AHMP through <b>long-term service</b> while promoting the vision and mission of the AHMP?	Yes / No	
2. Does the data provided demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in support of the AHMP through <b>continuous professional achievements</b> while promoting the vision and mission of the AHMP?	Yes / No	
3. Does the data provided demonstrate promotion of the integrity of the CHMM credential?	Yes / No	
4. Does the data provided demonstrate that this individual meets the high level of performance achieved by previous award recipients?	Yes / No	



5. Does this nominee meet the minimum requirements for this award?	Yes / No	
6. In your opinion, what is this nominee's ranking compared to the other nominees for this award?	1 <sup>st</sup> place to n <sup>th</sup> place	



The AHMP Board of Directors collectively nominates Zehra Schneider-Graham for the 2017 Pete Cook Award following her many years of dedicated service to AHMP. This long-term continuous service dedicated to AHMP deserves recognition with the Pete Cook Award and includes being President of AHMP in 2010, National Conference Committee chair in 2012, as well as being President of the New England Chapter of AHMP in 2005, and its Secretary in 2002-03.

Zehra began supporting AHMP on the national level in 2002 when she was appointed to the national AHMP Marketing Committee (and was NEACHMM Marketing Committee Chair). After her national AHMP Presidency, Zehra accepted another term as director at a time when the board was going through many changes. Zehra's knowledge of AHMP history, policies and procedures, and Robert's Rules of Order brought consistency and much need grounding to a board working vigorously to right the AHMP ship after years of mismanagement.

In 2015 as her second year of her first advisory director, term was ending, AHMP's Executive Director resigned. Zehra's understanding of the previous 10 years was a unique and critical knowledge set and subsequently, she was asked by the AHMP Board to continue her service as a non-voting



Advisory Director. All told, Zehra has actively supported AHMP for the last 15 years, always putting the organization's interests first.

Other notable activities include National Conference Chair in 2012 in Anchorage, AK the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AHMP which included a black tie celebration. The conference was also notable because this was the first time that AHMP had partnered with another EHS organization for our conference and their presence made a significant difference in the quality and variety of material presented at the conference.

Zehra's most recent project is one of our most important current initiatives, to update our bylaws. Zehra has lead the Bylaws Task Group for nearly two years and is finalizing communications to members regarding changes that are critical to modernizing how our board is structured and how it operates. Concurrently, Zehra, with her position at University of Massachusetts, also supports AHMP's Student Engagement task group.

Zehra exemplifies AHMP's mission and vision and truly embodies AHMP's values (provided below).

**Vision:** AHMP is the premier global leader for hazardous materials professionals.

**Mission:** AHMP maximizes our community, voice, knowledge exchange, and management support of hazardous materials professionals, making our world safer and healthier.

**Values:**

- We are trusted, ethical advisors, operating with professional integrity.
- We believe in lifelong learning, continuous transfer of knowledge and professional growth.
- We foster two-way, transparent, and frequent communication.
- We are good stewards, accountable for our responsibilities and to our communities.
- We are innovative, accessible, and seek excellence in order to be sustainable.
- We take pride in AHMP, our professional contributions, and the benefits they bring to others.

Below is a list of various activities/titles Zehra has supported and/or held over the past 15 years:

**Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals**

Advisory Director, 2014-present  
Bylaws Task Group Chair 2016-2017  
Student Engagement Task Group member, 2017  
Director at Large, 2013  
National Conference Committee Chairperson, 2012  
Immediate Past President, 2011  
President 2010  
Vice-President/President-elect, 2009  
Board of Directors member, 2008 & 2007  
Marketing Committee Chairperson, 2006  
Marketing Committee member 2002-2006

Review course contributor  
Desk Reference author 3rd edition



## **New England Association of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers**

President 2005,  
Vice President/President-elect 2004,  
Secretary 2003 & 2002  
Marketing Committee Chair 2000-2002

Zehra's professional experience includes 22 years at the University of Massachusetts in positions including Environmental Manager, EHS Professional, Associate and Deputy Director of EH&S. *(From their website) "The University of Massachusetts Boston is deeply rooted in the city's history, yet poised to address the challenges of the future. Recognized for innovative research, metropolitan Boston's public university offers its diverse student population both an intimate learning environment and the rich experience of a great American city. UMass Boston's 11 colleges and graduate schools serve nearly 17,000 students while engaging local and global constituents through academic programs, research centers, and public service. "*

She has primary responsibility for environmental management and construction issues, environmental permitting and laboratory compliance. She led the Environmental Management pilot program known as Project XL which culminated in the new EPA Academic Lab Rules. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and English from Simmons College, a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Master of Science in Botany from the University of Maine. Zehra is the Deputy Director of Environmental Health & Safety at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her primary responsibility is for all environmental, health and safety functions, including chemical and biological exposure control programs both in the laboratories (125) and with regard to the staff (3,000) and students (16,000). She is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) and a Registered Environmental Manager (REM).

Zehra's education includes a BS in Biology and English from Simmons College, with Master's degrees in Plant Biology from the University of Maine and Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts.

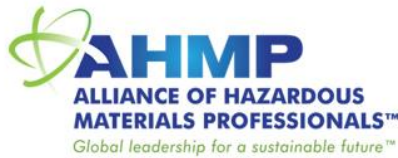
### **Zehra's individual accomplishments:**

AHMP Champion of Excellence Award Recipient:

2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006

### **Recommendations:**

Zehra has been involved with NEACHMM since before I took the exam, and ever since then she has been one of the few constants in NEACHMM. She became the president of NEACHMM, has taught sessions for the NEACHMM-sponsored Essentials of Hazardous Materials Management classes, and attended many meetings. And through it all, she has maintained her passion for the credential and shared that passion with others. When I became the president of NEACHMM, Zehra was one of the first people I reached out to for her counsel. As president of NEACHMM, she moved the Chapter forward and I could think of no better person to learn from as I began my role. She took time out of her personal life to meet with me apart from our regular Chapter meetings to help make sure the Chapter didn't stagnate as the reins changed hands. And this is only what she has done for us at a local level. She took this same energy, this same giving to a national level.



There cannot be many CHMMs who have given so much to so many for so long.

Kelly V. Camp CHMM, CPEA  
Senior Project Manager / Sr. Principal  
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I would certainly support and endorse Zehra for the Pete Cook Founder's award. I was on the BOD for NEACHMM for several years in the early and mid-2000's. I succeeded Zehra as president of NEACHMM. Zehra was a great role model in organization, hard work and consensus building, to allow the organization to move forward with programs and initiatives. On a personal level while I was VP/president-elect she was wonderful in sharing her insights and rationale to help me when I was to lead NEACHMM the following year. During my presidency, she was a great support and sounding board as the past-president. Once Zehra moved on to leadership positions at AHMP she was great at keeping the local chapters in the loop as to strategic plans for AHMP and how AHMP and the chapters could work together to promote the credential and the interests of members. Zehra is a great leader and advocate for AHMP and I would strongly advocate for her to be recognized by receiving the Pete Cook Founder's award.

Regards,  
Eric Hultstrom, CHMM  
Senior Project Manager  
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May 31, 2017

Awards Committee  
Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals  
9707 Key West Avenue, Suite 100, Rockville, MD  
20850

Subject: Award Nomination  
Pete Cook Founders Award Zehra Schneider  
Graham

To Whom It May Concern:



I write today in support of the nomination of Zehra Schneider Graham for the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals (AHMP) 2016 Pete Cook Founders Award. Her long-term service, continued support of the membership, and steadfast promotion of the mission and vision of the AHMP make her a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

I have witnessed Zehra's leadership for nearly two decades in her multiple roles within AHMP. I began working with Zehra in the late 90s, as then President of the New England Chapter. Zehra initially assisted me with membership and planning meetings and began serving as a member of the board of directors shortly thereafter. Zehra served as Chapter Vice President and President of the New England Chapter while supporting significant national activities.

During our time in Chapter leadership, Zehra also began serving the National organization as a member of the AHMP's Marketing Committee. In a short time, she became Co-Chair of the committee and the following year she was appointed Chair. During her tenure as Chair, she was tasked with hiring a marketing firm to assist AHMP to develop the program. Zehra managed the firm for nearly 5 years on behalf of the AHMP's Board of Directors (BoD) and later the Executive Director. No small feat as the BoD had high expectations of the program. At that time, Zehra also interfaced with IHMM to design the AHMP's Marketing Program to also support their mission.

In the mid-2000s, Zehra was elected to the AHMP's BoD and became President in 2010.

Throughout all that activity on behalf of AHMP and its members, Zehra never forgot her local roots. She continues to support the leadership of the New England chapter by presenting regularly and attending membership meetings to update members on National activities. She also mentored current AHMP President Michael Maheux while he was President of the New England Chapter.

While many of us "fade from the limelight" after serving, Zehra continues to support the AHMP BoD as an Advisory Director.

For her continued service and steadfast commitment to Pete Cook's vision, I enthusiastically support Zehra as a recipient of the Pete Cook Founders Award. She exemplifies Pete Cook's vision of total commitment to the mission of AHMP.

Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. Mitchell".

John H. Mitchell, CHMM

2007 AHMP President

2011 Pete Cook Founder's Award Recipient

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In support of Zehra Schneider Graham for Pete Cook Award:

I have known Zehra through NEACHMM and AHMP for approximately 15 yrs. when she became involved in the New England Chapter of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers. While t organized NEACHMM's EHMM course, she became a volunteer instructor for several years in a row. She was supportive of the chapters change to AHMP's Standard slides. She was instrumental in encouraging me and I am sure others to become an Officer on NEACHMM's BOD.





After serving on the BOD as Vice President, President, and Immediate Past president, she became more involved in the national organization always promoting the CHMM credential and its integrity. While I was President in 2006 she continued acting as a liaison between NEACHMM and the national organization educating us on the national strategy and promoting the vision and mission of AHMP.

By MaryEllen Doherty

May 15, 2017

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May 24, 2017

Michael D. Maheux, CHMM  
AHMP President, 2017  
mdmaheux@hotmail.com

Michael,

I am pleased to submit the following comments concerning Zehra Schneider-Graham in support of my endorsement for her candidacy for the AHMP Pete Cook Founders Award.

I have been a member of NEACHMM since 1998, and have served on the Board as a Director-at-Large from 1999 to 2007 and as Secretary from 2008 to my retirement in 2016. Over that period, I have become acquainted with Zehra, knowing her first as she became a new member of the Chapter, then in successive years as she served as Chapter Secretary, Vice-President, and eventually as Chapter President.

During this time, I have observed her to be an energetic member and officer in our Chapter, unselfishly volunteering her time and efforts to fulfill her duties as an officer and to promote the activities undertaken by the Chapter. She was a quick learner and became an enthusiastic booster of the Chapter, chairing various standing committees. As an officer, she demonstrated excellent judgment and became a very strong leader of the Chapter.

Zehra also became active in promoting the ACHMM national organization and its transition to AHMP. Of particular note, she was instrumental in petitioning AHMP for NEACHMM to host the 2010 AHMP Leadership Workshop in Boston. She deserves great credit for planning and organizing this event, and for making it the success that it was.

It was with great pride to all of us in the NEACHMM Chapter that Zehra continued her promotion of CHMMs by becoming active in AHMP, where she has served as a Director and as VP-President elect. We at NEACHMM are especially proud of her service and leadership as President of AHMP. She continues to serve AHMP as an Advisory Director, and by serving on various task groups.

She still manages to find time to stay active with, and give back to, her local Chapter as well. Earlier this year she was the guest speaker at our NEACHMM chapter general meeting, where she provided our members with an update on the activities within AHMP at the national level, and how the leadership is working diligently to bring more value back to its Chapters and its individual CHMM members.



In my opinion, there could be no better or more deserving choice for the Pete Cook Founders Award than Zehra Schneider-Graham.

Respectfully,  
Byron H. Willis, PhD, LSP, CHMM  
BHW Engineering, LLC  
hugh.willis@cox.net

cc: Joe Jenkins  
Black Hills Corporation  
Joejenkins55@comcast.net

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What is the reward for tireless service, commitment, dedication, steadfast work to uphold the vision of excellence of the CHMM credential? Pete Cook Founder's Award. The very same adjectives are synonymous with Zehra Schneider-Graham. As a lifelong member, Zehra has worked tirelessly in every chapter position, standing committee, ad hoc committee and board of director's position. I have seen her from afar for many years receiving awards at the chapter level as well as individually acknowledged for her service. It was not until being on the board myself and working and learning under her amazing work ethics did I realize what a treasure we have in Zehra. Her work behind the scene is as great, if not more than her work on the stage.

Zehra volunteers to head the difficult committees and tasks. Her work on the organization's agreements and bylaws, though painful and time consuming, she was through and comprehensive in her work. When it comes to the core values of AHMP, Zehra has proven repeatedly her commitment to excellence. Zehra is expanding our organization by demonstrating integrity to those coming up in the organization. When it would be easier to go along with the majority or sit and not be the voice of reason, Zehra chose to speak her truths. Zehra, in her very even voice explains why she believes what she believes. Zehra gives calm meaningful points to consider in our discussions. Zehra always is ready to offer the organization's rich history to those who ask, those too young to remember, and sometimes to those too old to remember for themselves. Zehra has become one of the strong, beautiful fibers that hold this organization together and keep us strong.

K. Hearn-Belser, MS, CHMM, CDGP  
Environmental, Health & Safety Engineer  
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L-3 Technologies Vertex

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Zehra has served AHMP and its predecessor for many years. I joined the Membership Committee in 2006 and Zehra was active in the Board of Directors at that time. I'm not sure of her role, but as she always has, was working on various tasks. My focus was on growing membership and she was active in the discussions and leadership of the initiatives. She was deeply involved in the transition of AHMP (then the ACHMM) from a volunteer run organization to a professionally led organization. Under John Mitchell, a previous Pete Cook Award recipient, her efforts moved the organization from operating out of one person's garage into a professionally managed and well respected, member focused association. She has served on the Executive Committee of Board of Directors in multiple roles since 2007 (Please check this year. It's plus or minus a year)





including President. Her dedication to the Vision and Mission of the Alliance has been unfailing and her contributions for over a decade has proven invaluable.

Mike Gordon  
AHMP President, 2013  
AHMP Leadership Committee 2014-2017  
[gordon.michael@verizon.net](mailto:gordon.michael@verizon.net)