

A Year of Change

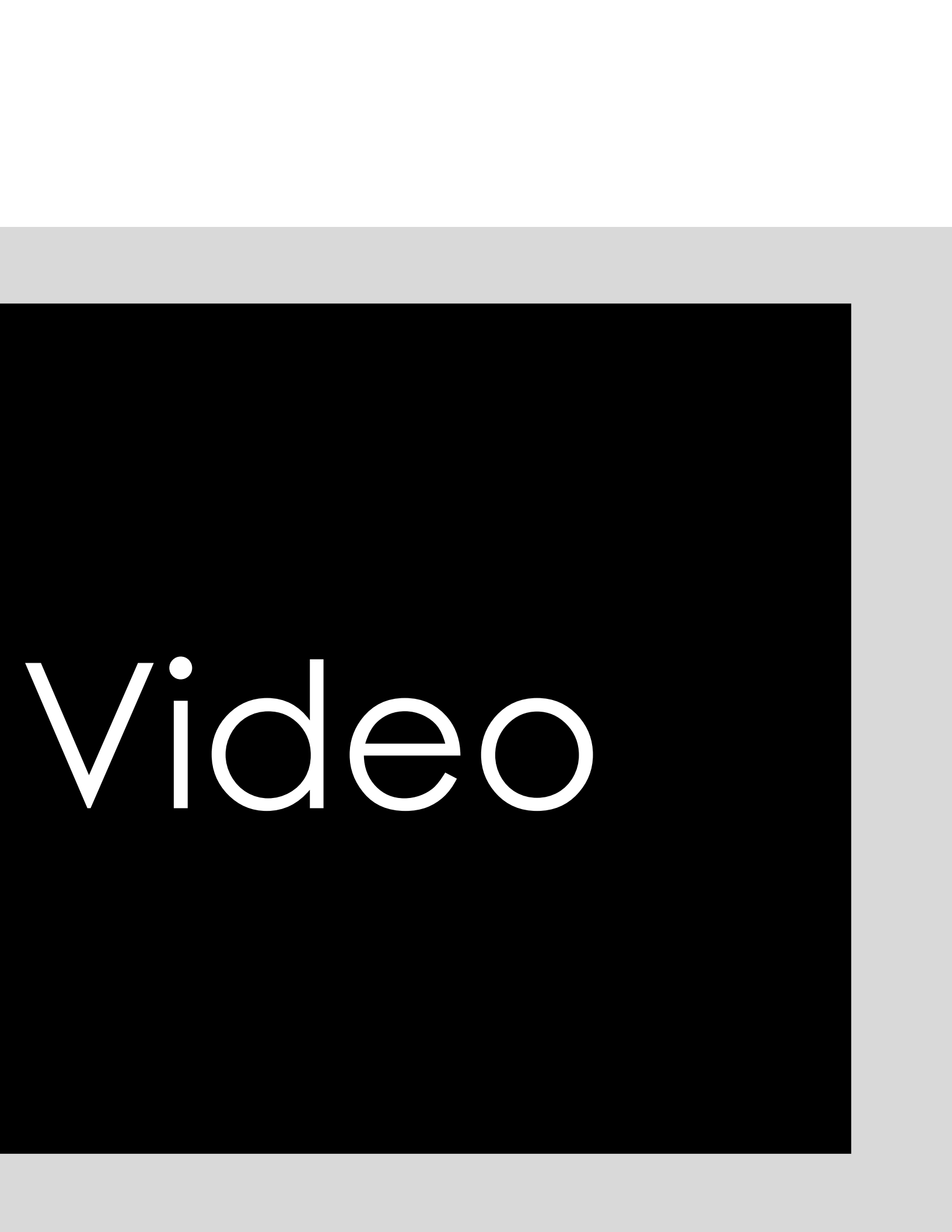
2019 Annual Report



Paul D. Bishop, CAE

Message From the President & CEO

Paul's



Video



The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) includes nearly 120 certifying authorities, representing more than 40 states, 9 Canadian provinces and territories, as well as several international and tribal programs.

These programs have certified more than 240,000 water and wastewater operators, laboratory analysts, plant maintenance technologists, biosolids land appliers, and backflow prevention assembly testers.

ABC STAFF



PAUL BISHOP, CAE

President & CEO



TOM HEALY

Director of Certification
Services



LISA DIRSKEN

Director of Communications
& Public Relations



JAMES HILCHEN

Client Services Manager



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Testing Services
Administrator



HALEY MELZ

Certification Services
Specialist



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Testing Services Specialist



MICHELE WASTA

Marketing Communications
Specialist



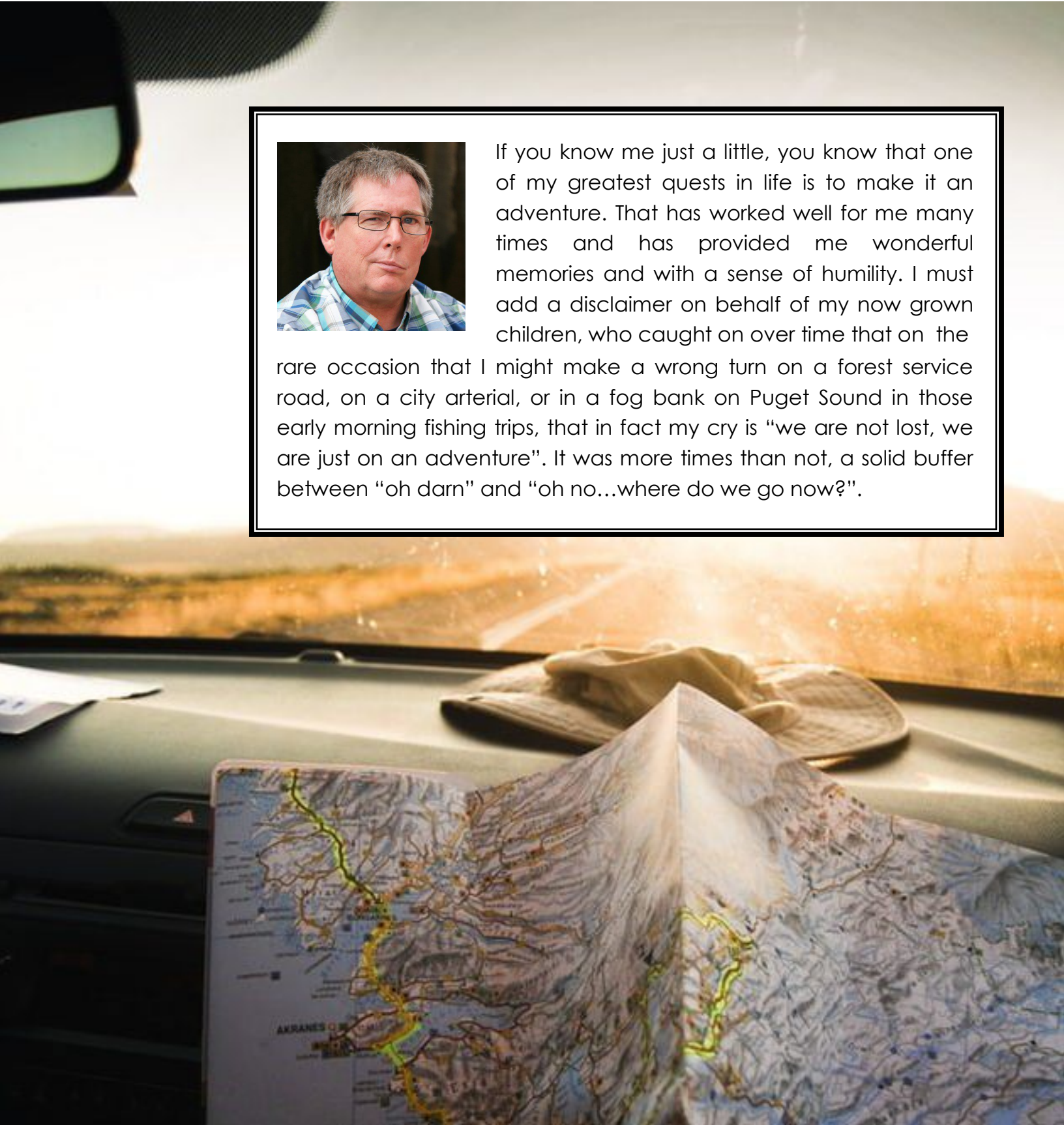
NICOLE HILL

Office Executive Assistant

Reflections with Gratitude



If you know me just a little, you know that one of my greatest quests in life is to make it an adventure. That has worked well for me many times and has provided me wonderful memories and with a sense of humility. I must add a disclaimer on behalf of my now grown children, who caught on over time that on the rare occasion that I might make a wrong turn on a forest service road, on a city arterial, or in a fog bank on Puget Sound in those early morning fishing trips, that in fact my cry is “we are not lost, we are just on an adventure”. It was more times than not, a solid buffer between “oh darn” and “oh no...where do we go now?”.



First, I want to thank you all for allowing me the chance to make this past year as your Chair, a true adventure! I enter this final year as a Board member looking forward to finishing a few things already in works, and serving to launch us into some new opportunities.

Accomplished and Moving Forward

For most of my three years on the Board, my interests have seemed to gravitate to the water sector workforce issues that are now challenging all of us. Paul and I had the chance to enter into the conversations going on with EPA, many of our stakeholder partners, and several represented utilities.

This fall, that work was launched right into our immediate futures as in September the EPA announced their new Water Workforce Initiative. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, David Ross, made several very important and motivating statements that I want to pass on in this note:



“EPA looks forward to capturing innovative ideas and collaborative actions through our Water Workforce Initiative so that we can take meaningful steps to ensure we have a strong water sector workforce for generations to come.”



“Without this sector, we don’t have society as we know it.”



“These are great people who care passionately about their jobs. Water plant operators are the “silent everyday unsung heroes” who are on the front lines for protecting public health.”



“We can drop billions of dollars into brick and mortar, but if we don’t have a trained workforce it won’t matter.

Reflections with Gratitude

Challenges That We Must Take On

It seems that our own regulations and policies can get in our way of being great problem solvers. "Because that's the way we always have," is a statement that I will challenge you all to put aside for a bit, as it may be time to create a vision of how we could/would do it differently. In October, Paul asked me to join him to moderate our session at the ASDWA conference in Tampa. As I prepared a few of my own opening remarks, I came to the realization that we in that room were in a very similar place as our predecessors must have felt some twenty years ago after the 1996 SDWA amendments called for all small systems to now have a certified operator in responsible charge...think about that one, how do we create 1900 (in my state of Washington) new certified operators? Strangely, that is about the same number we are facing now, and heck we have five to ten years to make it happen.

I think we need to give some consideration to modernizing the approach to rating treatment plants. Similarly, we need to also begin to rethink the criteria for experience in a plant or distribution system. Perhaps there is some merit in taking into consideration more of what we have learned from our exam development job task surveys. What does a level 1, 2, 3, or 4 operator really do in their jobs? And how much value is there in adding this information versus just using amount of time worked in a certain level of a facility?

Focus on Our Own Future Workforce

During our last night in Savannah, we enjoyed an evening at the Georgia Railroad Museum. It was during a rousing round of corn hole that I was approached by our state certification staff from several states, including Oregon and Alaska, and was asked if there was a way for us to maintain the connection we had developed in the week together. Much to my self-disappointment, I failed to make that happen, and here we are a year later.

I hope to focus some of this next year on the development of a young professionals group for those working on the process of certifying operators. I have seen this work with great success elsewhere in our water sector world and I think that we could all benefit from the establishment of a group created and lead by the association that provides an opportunity for an ongoing dialog focused on the successes and challenges we face in our lives as certifying entities.



January 8-11, 2019 | Savannah, Georgia

Innovation in Certification 2019

3 Countries

34 States and provinces

97 Attendees

103 Ah-ha moments

874 Slido engagements

2019 ABC Awards

Recognizing Industry Excellence



A faded background image showing a group of people in a meeting or conference setting, with some individuals looking at documents or devices.

Harris F. Seidel Lifetime Achievement Award

Bridget O'Grady

Certification Program Award

Environmental Operator Certification Program

Robert C. McAnespie Outstanding Certification Officer Award

Rachel Neville and Tanya Hunter

Jess Jones Excellence in Service Award

Peggy Barton

Dr. Kenneth D. Kerri Excellence in Workforce Development Award

Dr. Gregory Boardman

Introducing New ABC Exams for 2019



The Association of Boards of Certifications (ABC) is excited to announce that our 2019 standardized exams for water treatment, wastewater treatment, wastewater collection, and water distribution operators are now available for review and implementation by your program. Through ongoing continuous improvement efforts, our new standardized exams feature fresh, reliable, and secure content, already proven in testing operator knowledge.



Ready to Connect

Our team of professionals is available to discuss your program's individual needs. All questions regarding your program's transition to [ABC's 2019 standardized exams](#) can be addressed to Tom Healy, Director of Certification Services, at thealy@abccert.org or 515-232-3623.

Certification Reimagined



ABC's 2019 focal point was "reimagining certification." The Certification Commission for Environmental Professionals (C2EP) eagerly stepped up to the plate to see this become reality, both for the Professional Operator program and for ABC testing clients worldwide.

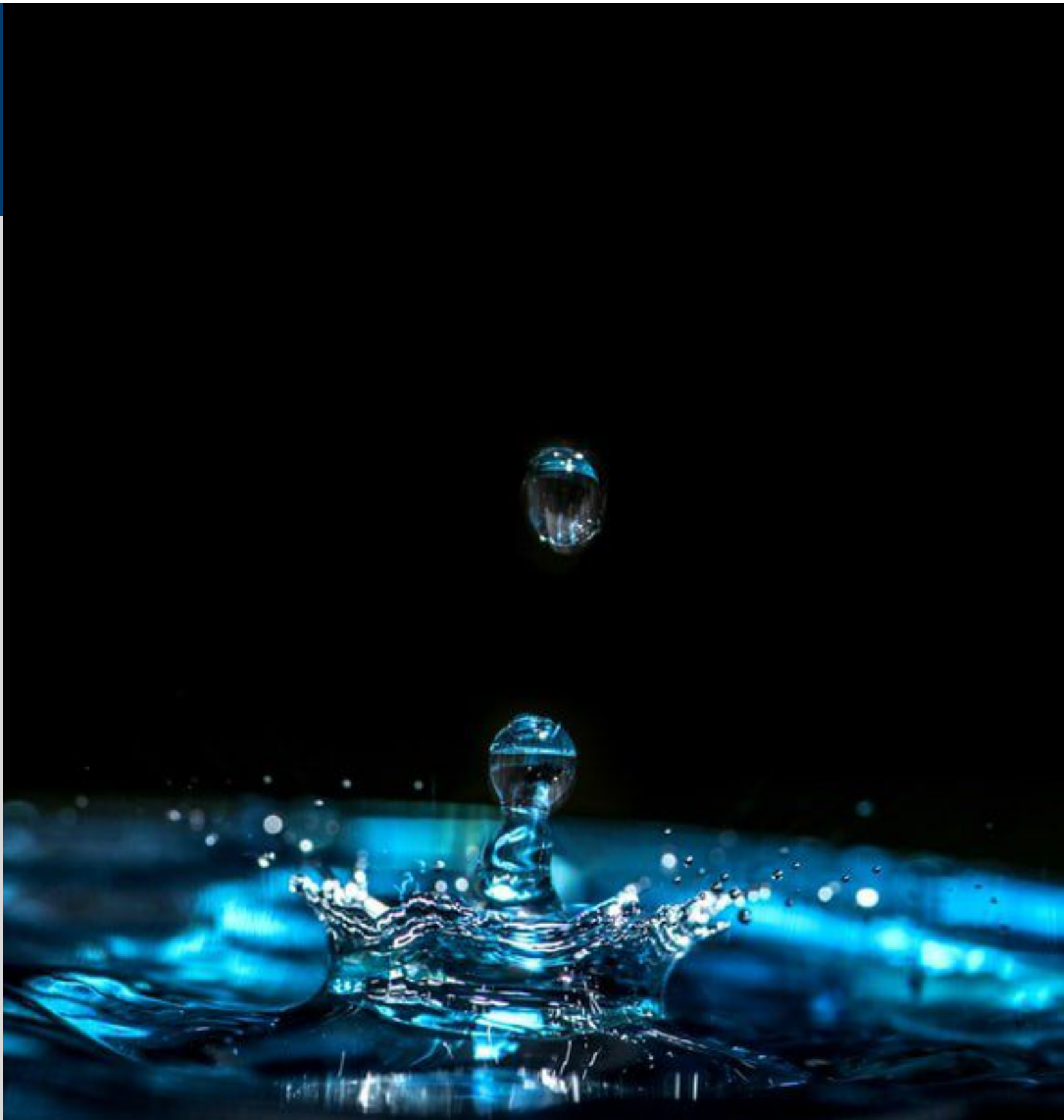
Developing legally defensible standardized certification exams across multiple disciplines in an increasingly technology-driven water sector and increasingly litigious society is not for the faint of heart. C2EP continues to accept that challenge with a cohesive team of ABC staff, commissioners, and scheme committee members, each comprising a diverse cross section of water, wastewater, and credentialing expertise. C2EP also teams with PSI to ensure an air-tight psychometric process and ongoing compliance with ever-changing credentialing standards. C2EP's scheme committees not only work closely with PSI throughout each step of the exam development process, but also with in cooperation one another to ensure consistency across the water sector.

Reciprocity has remained a challenge for decades, particularly between US states, and was one of ABC's founding priorities when it was created in 1972. In my 29 years working in the water sector, the greatest progress towards increasing operator mobility across jurisdictions has been the Professional Operator program. Already accepted by many certification authorities for one-to-one reciprocity, it's also become a coveted credential by operators seeking career advancement and national/international recognition. The Professional Operator program is truly reimagining certification.

A key challenge facing regulatory programs everywhere is keeping up with ever-increasing psychometric and credentialing standards. For governmental programs, it often takes years to enact rule changes. ABC/C2EP is keenly aware of this and is working with programs to achieve model standards through creative and alternate paths.

Preserving public health and the environment remains a global need, and was underscored to me last summer when I traveled to Saint Lucia to speak at the Caribbean Water & Sewerage Association annual conference. What impressed me most was learning about credentialing programs with limited resources doing more with less than programs elsewhere. Creativity and outside-the-box thinking are needed for environmental certification programs to remain viable in the 2020s. C2EP is committed to see programs worldwide embrace this challenge.

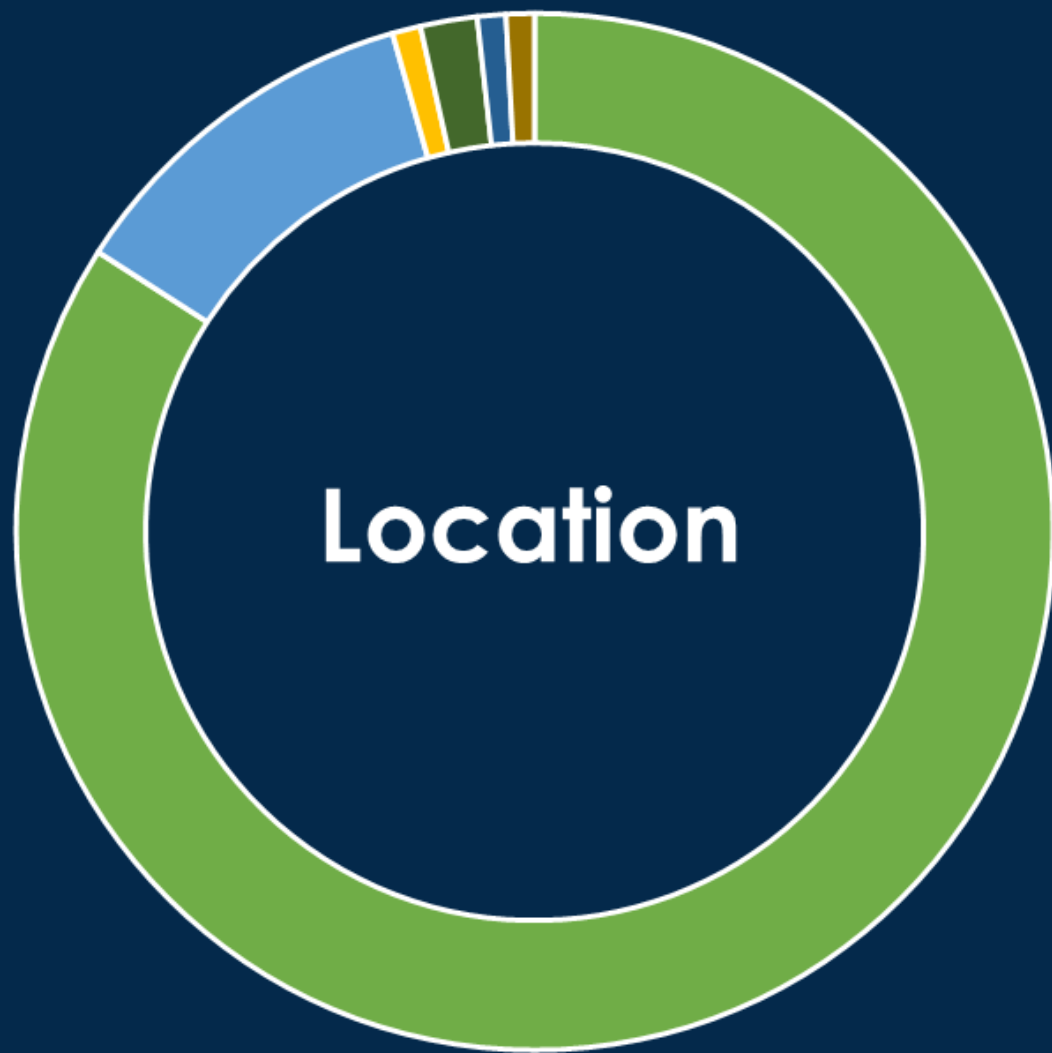
C2EP remains committed to broadening the Professional Operator program, continuing to develop legally defensible certification examinations for ABC testing clients, and serving the credentialing industry with excellence in 2020.



ABC Membership

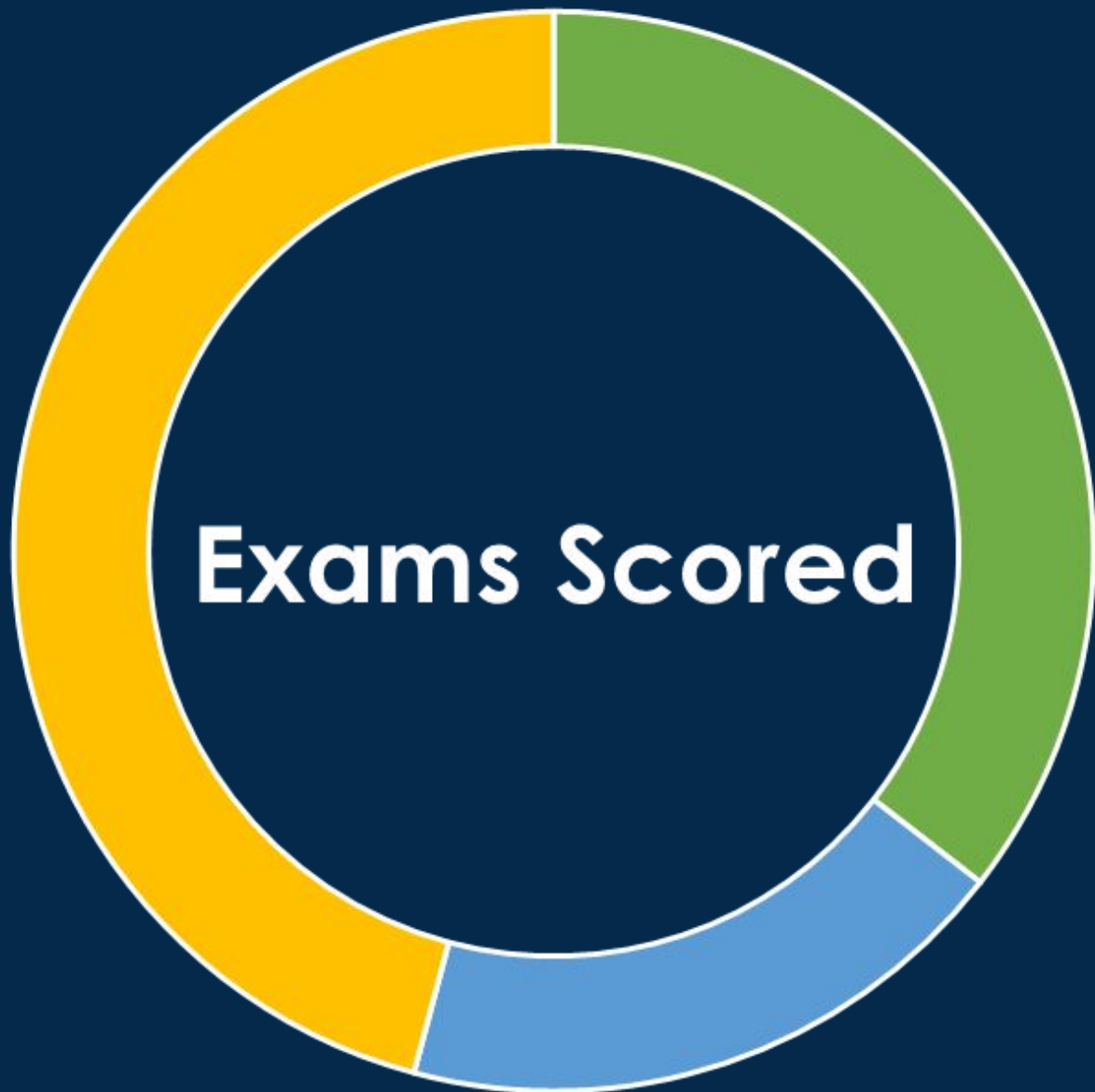


- Certification Program Members (86)
- Associate Members (25)
- Special Members (2)



- U.S. State & Territories (95)
- Canadian Provinces & Territories (13)
- Jordan (1)
- Albania (2)
- St. Lucia (1)
- Saipan (1)

Certifications & Exams



- Paper (13,863)
- Web (7,289)
- Computer (17,894)



■ Active PO Certifications

■ Active ABC Certifications

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$246,115
Investments	\$2,391,353
Accounts Receivable	\$340,963
Prepaid Expenses	\$15,947
Net Fixed Assets	\$30,840
Total Assets	\$3,025,218

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$71,690
Accrued Expenses	\$97,729
Deferred Revenue	\$31,856
Total Liabilities	\$201,275
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,823,943
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$3,025,218

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue & Support

Member Dues	\$127,856
Services	\$1,566,278
Conference	\$92,213
Royalties	\$23,693
Interest & Dividends	\$90,578
Total Revenue & Support	\$1,900,618

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$739,005
Management Expenses	\$666,653
Total Expenses	\$1,405,658

Unrestricted Net Assets

Net Increase of \$370,643

BOARD OF



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ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

Chair-Elect



ALISON M.

Vice



MORLEY FOY, PE

Water Division Director



JASON SPICER

Wastewater Division Director



CHAD

AWWA Rep

DIRECTORS



CGEE, PO

Chair



CHRIS MCCORD

Immediate Past-Chair



ROB FLEMING

At-Large Division



WEIKEL

Representative



MIKE KYLE

WEF Representative



PAUL BISHOP, CAE

Ex Officio

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LONN RASMUSSEN, PO

Collection Operations Commissioner



JIM KINCAID



MICHAEL WENTINK



CHERYL CAPRON, PO

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Water Treatment
Operations Commissioner



LEANNA M. RISSO, PO

Wastewater Treatment
Operations Commissioner



LIAM (BILL) SULLIVAN

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PAUL BISHOP, CAE



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PO

James, PO

CERTIFICATION IMAGINED

CERTIFICATION
IMAGINED



ABC
Association of
Boards of Certification