

# Officer/Director Candidates

## President Elect

### **Desiree VanBurger**

Desiree VanBurger has been practicing Industrial Hygiene and been engaged with our Florida AIHA Chapter since 2015, and has previously served as the Secretary. She attended USF's NIOSH ERC and earned an MSPH in Industrial Hygiene after having been introduced to the discipline and program by Dr. Steve Mlynarek, who served as her advisor. She has been with Walt Disney World since 2015 as well, working in a comprehensive manner but with particular attention to Hearing Conservation, Confined Space, Hazard Communication, and Oxygen Displacing Gases. In 2019 she earned both the CIH and CSP credentials and will recertify in the coming year.

### **Candidate Statement**

I am passionate about worker health and the prevention of occupational disease and injury, and would be honored to serve the Chapter and profession in a leadership capacity in the coming years. I hope to continue the excellent and dedicated work of the outgoing Board by assisting in the planning and delivery of high-quality continuing education for members and helping to develop the next generation of leaders for our Chapter. She hopes to contribute at least as much as she has gained from her involvement with Florida AIHA, and although that's a tall order, she is committed to the effort."

## Secretary

### **Secretary - Layzamarie Irizarry-Colon**

Layzamarie Irizarry-Colon is an Industrial Hygienist Specialist in the Agency Occupational Health Office at Kennedy Space Center, working alongside the Agency Environmental Health Team. Her role involves maintaining and upholding policies and standards to the utmost regard across all NASA Centers, as well as identifying collaborative opportunities for positive impacts and improvements, prioritizing the well-being of NASA's workforce and work environment. She is also the Agency working group facilitator, which helps with fostering collaborations and providing educational sessions, regarding relevant issues and/or updates for Ergonomics, Hearing Conservation, Asbestos, Indoor Environmental Quality, Heat Stress, Early Career & Young Professional Initiatives, and more for the NASA EH Community. Her professional experience spans from being an environmental health and safety specialist at a semiconductor manufacturing facility to a safety engineer at a hydraulic manufacturing facility. Currently, she finished her Master's of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Occupational Exposure Science (also known as Industrial Hygiene) at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, FL and graduated on December 9, 2023, and she also obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Public Health at USF too.

### **Layzamarie Irizarry-Colon Candidate Statement**

As a prospective candidate for the Secretary position in FL AIHA, I'd like to outline my intentions for the role. My primary aim is to enhance member participation and engagement both during conferences and on social media platforms. This involves creating opportunities for members to actively contribute and exchange ideas, fostering feedback, and encouraging input on association matters within the committee. I am dedicated to expanding membership outreach by implementing strategies for new member onboarding, maintaining an updated member directory, and promptly addressing inquiries. Recognizing the importance of nurturing early career and young professionals, I intend to support them through mentorship initiatives during conferences, providing valuable networking opportunities. Collaboration is key, and I am keen to establish partnerships with organizations like FL HP, leveraging existing connections to build alliances. This collaborative effort can lead to shared resources, knowledge exchange, and expanded opportunities for all members. I envision the possibility of creating an IH Innovated hub that extends its impact not only in-person but also through social media channels.

### **Secretary - Kamille Quijano**

My name is Kamille Quijano; born and raised in Puerto Rico. Recently found my way to Kissimmee, FL to pursue a career as an Industrial Hygienist and Safety Professional at Walt Disney World. Before moving to Florida, I worked as an Industrial Hygienist for Pfizer and Amgen Manufacturing Limited. I obtained a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Turabo (2016), and a master's degree in industrial hygiene from the University of Puerto Rico (2019). During my coursework, I held multiple directive roles within the Association of Biologists and Biotechnologists (AFBB) (Public Relations, Secretary, and President) and the AIHA chapter in UPR-RCM (President). I am currently working towards my CSP and CIH certifications, in addition to joining the EDA Registry program from AIHA.

### **Kamille Quijano - Candidate Statement**

While I feel passionate about my chosen career, Industrial Hygiene has not always been my top choice. My journey to where I am today has been molded thanks to amazing professionals and loved ones that have encouraged me to pursue this path. I would be grateful to be considered for the position of Secretary within the directive of AIHA FL. Through my work, I hope to inspire future generations of Industrial Hygienists, and continue to learn from all generations before me.

## **Director of Professional Development**

### **Valerie Durant**

My name is Valerie Durant. I moved recently to Florida from Puerto Rico. I am currently working at Walt Disney World as Associate Safety Professional, Industrial Hygienist. I worked in Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension as a Project Engineer for 2 years, also as Industrial Hygienist Consultant in Ramazzini Safety Solutions, performing different assessments such as: air sampling, noise dosimetry's and ergonomic evaluations. I

have a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and a master's degree in Industrial Hygiene from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). I was the president of the Women In Engineering, IEEE Association at UPR Mayaguez Campus in 2019, and the president of AIHA Student Chapter at UPR Medical Science Campus in 2022.

**Candidate Statement**

I am aspiring to the position of Director of Professional Development; I would like to bring new ideas and reach out to outstanding professionals to continuing develop and expanding our knowledge about Occupational Safety and Health.