

# Emerging Professionals in the Onsite Industry: Panel Discussion on Improving Outreach & Supporting Young Professionals



*NOWRA's Disclaimer: The materials being presented represent the speaker's own opinions and do NOT reflect the opinions of NOWRA.*

# Panel Moderators

**Jillian Maxcy-Brown, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Auburn University

*Vice Chair of NOWRA's Emerging  
Professionals Committee*



**Robert Bair, PhD**

Senior Development Engineer  
University of South Florida

*Scholarship Liaison for NOWRA's  
Emerging Professionals Committee*



# Panel Outline

- ▶ Introduction (~5 minutes)
- ▶ Panelist Reflection and Discussion (~30 minutes)
- ▶ Audience Q&A Time (~20 minutes)

# NOWRA's Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC)

- ▶ Newest NOWRA Committee
- ▶ Formed after the 2021 Mega Conference
- ▶ Interest from throughout the sector on recruiting and developing young professionals
- ▶ Mission Statement:
  - ▶ **Committee is dedicated to workforce development, recruitment, and advocacy on behalf of young and early career professionals in the onsite wastewater treatment sector**

# Emerging Professionals Committee Meeting

11:45 am Room Guava/Tamarind

# Emerging Professionals Social

Tonight!

# Panelists



**Kevin Orner, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering*  
West Virginia University  
Academic Researcher



**Benjamin Nome**  
*Sales Development Rep.*  
Infiltrator Water Technologies  
Manufacturing



**Nick Dykes**  
*Operations Manager*  
Dykes Excavating & Grading  
Installer



**Gabby Saba Zimmer**  
*Director of Workforce Development*  
WAI  
Non-Profit



**Mary Pizzuto**  
*Environmental Engineer*  
Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Regulatory

# Reflection Questions

1. Introductions: Name, Role, Experience in the Industry (types of projects, number of years, how you got involved with NOWRA, etc.)
2. How did you get involved in the onsite wastewater sector?
3. What resources (mentoring, educational, financial, etc.) have been helpful as you have become involved with onsite systems?
4. How can the industry better support emerging professionals?