



EREF Demonstrates Commitment to the Future of the Waste Industry

Raleigh, NC (September 22, 2017) - On Wednesday and Thursday, September 6 and 7, members of the Future Industry Leaders Alliance (FILA) convened in Raleigh, NC for the annual FILA Leadership Conference. In addition to networking with fellow members, FILA leadership conferences feature educational opportunities, which prepare participants for executive advancement and professional leadership in the waste industry.

After a day of communication training provided by Hidden Brook Communications, attendees spent the next morning at N.C. State University, where they learned about the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF), its commitment to advancing the waste industry and the role the next generation of leaders will play in EREF's research and education. EREF President & CEO, Bryan Staley, presented on the foundation's dedication to equipping future leaders with the information and tools they need in order to be successful in their pursuit to improve the industry. Furthermore, Staley emphasized the value and impact of the foundation's research on not only the industry as a whole, but on each company's expenses and day-to-day activities.

"Through its research and educational components, EREF plays an important role in shaping the future of the industry," said Josh Thompson, FILA Treasurer and Director of Purchasing at Waste Industries, the conference premier sponsor. "It is crucial that the next generation of leaders understands the impact of the foundation's work to increase sustainability, enhance productivity and improve waste management practices."

Following Staley's presentation, EREF Grantee, Dr. Morton Barlaz, and Post-doctoral researcher, Dr. Florentino de la Cruz, shared findings from their EREF-funded research on methane production in elevated temperature landfills. Barlaz and de la Cruz work in N.C. State's Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering. Afterwards, FILA members toured State's Environmental Engineering lab and heard from Grantee and former EREF Scholar, Jim Levis, regarding his development of the SWOLF model for measuring environmental burden.

The day concluded with entrepreneurship training at the Neighbor to Neighbor Center, a non-profit organization providing mentoring to families and youths in Southeast Raleigh.

"It is crucial that members of the waste industry come together on a regular basis to strengthen relationships and discuss opportunities to advance the industry," said Nate Davis, FILA Member-at-Large and Vice President, Service and Digital Solutions at Environmental Solutions Group. "We are pleased that this year's conference was a success and look forward to future events."

If you would like to learn more about FILA, please visit <https://wasterecycling.org/members/interest-groups/future-industry-leaders-alliance>.

EREF is a 501(c)3 class charity that funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve. For more complete information on EREF funded research, its scholarship program and how to donate to this great cause, visit www.erefndn.org.

Media Contact:

Catherine Ardoin, Communications Manager

Phone: 919.861.6876 ext. 109

Email: cardoin@erefdn.org