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NC BREATHE Connects Air Quality to Community Health

Winston-Salem, N.C. – Clean Air Carolina, a statewide clean air advocacy group, will host their annual NC BREATHE conference in Winston-Salem on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Wake Forest University Bowman Gray Center of Medical Education.

For the fourth year in a row, Clean Air Carolina will create a forum for experts and stakeholders to discuss the effects of air quality in North Carolina. This year, the conference will focus on the theme of “Connecting Air Quality to Community Health”. The topic is particularly of value after a [recent study](#) published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* links short-term exposure to air pollution below current standards to premature death. NC BREATHE will gather health professionals, scientists, researchers, economists, policymakers and community partners to discuss the health implications of air quality in North Carolina.

The conference will consist of three keynote presentations on new research: air quality health; wildfires, climate change, and health; and why and how we put a value on clean air. Keynote speakers include H. Kim Lyerly, MD, and Julia Kravchenko, MD, PhD, of the Duke University Medical School; Wayne Cascio, MD and Bryan Hubbell, PhD, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Lauren Thie, MSPH, of N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

“We are fortunate to have passionate professionals with expertise in air quality issues within our state that are saving lives through their work and advocacy,” said Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky, Clean Air Carolina’s Medical Advocates for Healthy Air Program Manager. “NC BREATHE opens the dialogue for North Carolinians to share the latest research related to the impacts air pollution has on human health, the environment, and the economy while also discussing the critical role policy making plays.”

The day-long conference will also feature breakout sessions and panel discussions on engaging communities in research, collecting data, and measuring the economic impact of policies. The conference will also host a student research poster competition. The NC BREATHE general registration fee is \$25 for professionals and free for students. To register, visit www.cleanaircarolina.org/ncbreathe2018.

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Clean Air Carolina is a statewide nonprofit organization based in Charlotte, NC. Our mission is to ensure cleaner air quality for all North Carolinians through education and advocacy and by working with our partners to reduce sources of pollution.