As my first-ever entry into NC Currents, I first want to note how pleased I am to serve as Executive Director of NC One Water. The warm welcome I have received from our staff and members of the Board of Trustees and other committee volunteers is truly appreciated.

I asked the staff who put this magazine together (that’s mostly Jennifer), to rename this quarterly column The Gage because a significant responsibility of the Executive Director is to have a good measure of where this organization – and our larger industry – currently stand and to assess the impact of conditions on the future.

During my recent visit to Louisiana and WEFTEC, something that struck me was the unity that the topic of water brings. In that venue, thousands of people across our industry gathered to showcase the latest technologies and increase their knowledge during dozens of technical sessions. All for one purpose.

We are unified in our understanding of the importance of water.

As water professionals, we are united in our resolve to be respectful of nature and protective of citizens as we collect and return water to the larger ecosystem.

There are uniform standards for our industry – best practices that provide direction for the education and training NC One Water creates and delivers to our customers, helping to ensure our members are prepared to protect the health of our communities and our environment.

Walking through the massive Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans at the WEFTEC Conference, the concept of unity was intentionally on display at a vendor’s booth. I discovered that the Miolee family had established and run United Blower for three generations, and the next generation was there to assist. Daughter Bianca, at her fourth convention and now a sophomore in college, has inherited the drive and desire to build and create – sharing a universal desire to improve the world around her.

So, I am not only grateful to be at the helm of a terrific nonprofit, but to be at the heart of an industry in North Carolina (and beyond) with thousands of people sharing a unity of effort and working toward a common purpose: to learn and grow and contribute to an even better tomorrow!