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North Carolina State Department of Environmental Quality Awards Pluris North Carolina Manager Kris King 2026 Operator of the Year



The Picture taken on the education deck on Pluris's Habitat Reclamation Pond with nine floating wetlands. The Deck is Provided for School science field trips where students can see how the environment and advanced technology can co-exist.

Kris King, North Carolina Manager for Pluris has been awarded the 2026 Treatment Operator of the Year by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality ("NCDEQ"), the state's environmental regulatory agency.

Kris is shown in the center of the photograph on the education deck at Pluris' Hampstead Membrane Facility. Pictured along with Kris are NCDEQ staff, including Mark Brantley, Water Quality Regional Operations Supervisor (far left), Renee' Thompson, Operator Certification Program (immediate left of Kris), Tyler Benson, Water Quality Regional Operations Section, Environmental Specialist II (immediate right of Kris), and Morella Sanchez King, Water Resources, Water Quality Regional Operations Section, Environmental Program Supervisor II.

This prestigious honor is extra meaningful with the award organization being the State environmental regulatory agency that has environmental compliance jurisdiction for all utilities in North Carolina.

Kris oversees the new advanced 5th generation membrane bio-reactor wastewater facility in Pender County. This facility was awarded the "*2026 National Membrane Plant of the Year*", by the American Water Works Association and the American Membrane Technology Association at the national annual conference held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition, the Water Environment Federation recently recognized the advanced treatment facility as the "*Utility of the Future*" Program for 2026. The Water Environment Federation honored Pluris at the National WEFTEC 2026 Conference in New Orleans, on September 29, 2026.

Maurice Gallarda, PE, Managing Member of Pluris Capital Group, the parent company, commented that, "*Kris is most deserving of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality award this year. As a multigenerational native to the intercoastal waterways of southeastern North Carolina, Kris is committed to environmental stewardship with protecting the environment."*

Shown in the two pictures are Kris and his favorite Egret min residence, "*Journey*", shown enjoying Koi fish in the pond for a meal and with Kris on the deck. Both Kris and Journey invite anyone to visit the facility for a personal tour. Kris can be reached at kking@plurisusa.com.



