

# The CHES Bulletin

Volume 20, No. 1

Winter 2009

## NCHEC CELEBRATES CHES Credential 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Written by Stephanie Mathews, MPH, CHES

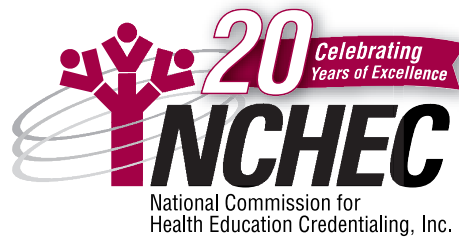
The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc (NCHEC) is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the CHES credential. For the past two decades, NCHEC has been actively engaged in its mission to “improve the practice of health education and serve the public and the profession by certifying health education specialists, promoting professional development and strengthening professional preparation and practice.” The National Task Force on the Preparation and Practice of Health Educators formally became incorporated as NCHEC in 1988. In 1989, experienced health education professionals had the opportunity to become Certified Health Education Specialists via a chartership process that included a review of documented experience. The first CHES exam was administered in 1990 and is now offered twice a year at more than 120 testing locations nationwide. The organization has evolved into a nonprofit agency that has a governing body of commissioners, three division boards, an executive director, and five-full time office staff.

NCHEC has made great strides in developing core competencies for Certified Health Education Specialists since its inception, mainly to ensure that there was a mastery of fundamental skills across practice settings. The organization worked to create a competency-based framework for health education professionals to identify related areas of responsibility in their practice. This standardization has contributed to setting broad practice standards, which can be used for curriculum development, evaluation of continuing education programs and performance measurement.

Several significant milestones have been reached since NCHEC began its efforts in health education. In 2005, the result of the six-year National Health Educator Competencies Update Project (CUP) was unveiled. This multiphase nationwide research study re-verified the role of entry-level health educators and further defined and verified the role of advanced-level health educators.<sup>1</sup> Results from the CUP study led to the release of new publications, *A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators (2006)* and *The Health Education Specialist: A Study Guide for Professional Competence (5th Edition-2007)*. The revised CHES exam was administered in October 2007 and reflected the updated responsibilities and competencies of the entry-level health educator. In June 2008, the CHES certification program was granted accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This signifies that the CHES exam complies with stringent testing and measurement standards among health testing organizations (See Figure 1 on next page for NCHEC history timeline).

Today, NCHEC stands as a well respected authority in health education credentialing. Not only does NCHEC have over 8,000 active CHES, but the organization has steadily expanded its reach and increased certification over the years. Currently, CHES professionals are working in all facets of health education within government, healthcare, nonprofit and private sectors. Recently, there has been an increase in employer consideration/preference for CHES professionals. This is evidenced by the increasing number of employment opportunities on our Web site.

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Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

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Check out the CHES Bulletin online: [www.nchec.org/news/news.htm](http://www.nchec.org/news/news.htm)

## 20TH Anniversary *cont'd*

Throughout 2009, NCHEC will be remembering the accomplishments of the past 20 years and looking ahead to future challenges. Special 20th Anniversary highlights include the launch of the redesigned Web site and Bulletin, CHES anniversary giveaways, and featured articles in the Bulletin.

Indeed, NCHEC has played a vital role in enhancing and promoting the profession of health education along with ensuring the competence of its workforce. NCHEC continues to advance the profession of health education with two exciting projects currently underway, the new Job Analysis Project (see page 7) and the Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) (see page 5). With its focused efforts NCHEC will continue its role in contributing to a qualified health education workforce. Happy 20th Anniversary to the CHES credential!

1. National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, INC (NCHEC), Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE), American Association for Health Education (AAHE). (2006). *A competency-based framework for health educators-2006*. Whitehall, PA. Author.

## History of NCHEC Credentialing of Health Educators

- ❖ 1978- National Task Force developed
- ❖ 1980- Role verification
- ❖ 1985- Competencies established
- ❖ 1988- NCHEC incorporated as a nonprofit organization
- ❖ 1989- CHES credential initiated- charter
- ❖ 1990- 1st CHES exam administered
- ❖ 1997- CHES exam offered twice a year
- ❖ 1998- Competencies Update Project (CUP) initiated
- ❖ 2000- Code of Ethics for Health Education Profession adopted
- ❖ 2005- CUP Study Results Released
- ❖ 2006- A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators released
- ❖ 2007- Revised study guide released
  - 1st Exam administered using updated competencies
  - Health Educators 1 of only 2 new occupations in the Department of Labor Handbook
- ❖ 2008 - CHES credential received NCCA accreditation
- ❖ 2008- Next Job Analysis initiated

Figure 1



### APHA presentation, “Credentialing the Public Health Workforce.”

Presenters left to right:  
*Alonzo L. Plough,*  
*Linda Lysoby,*  
*Bernard D. Goldstein,*  
*John Neuberger (Moderator)*  
*and Patrick M. Libbey*

## Conference Schedule

Mark your calendars for opportunities to earn continuing education contact hours. For more information on the conferences, visit the organizations' Web site.

Organization	Details	Dates	Location
AAHPERD – Eastern District Association 88th Annual Convention	<a href="http://www.aahperd.org/districts/eda/">www.aahperd.org/districts/eda/</a>	February 4-7, 2009	Lancaster, Pennsylvania
AAHE/AAHPERD – 124th National Convention and Exposition	<a href="http://www.aahperd.org/convention/">www.aahperd.org/convention/</a>	March 31, 2009	Tampa, Florida
SOPHE 2009 Midyear Scientific Conference	<a href="http://www.sophe.org">www.sophe.org</a>	May 7-9, 2009	New Orleans, Louisiana
SOPHE 60th Annual Meeting	<a href="http://www.sophe.org">www.sophe.org</a>	November 5-7, 2009	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
APHA 137th Annual Meeting and Exposition	<a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/">www.apha.org/meetings/</a>	November 7-11, 2009	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Next Exam Dates

Tell a colleague or student that the next CHES exam dates are **April 25, 2009** and **October 17, 2009**. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org) or contact the exam coordinator at 888-624-3248, ext 12.

### APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30		

## CIGNA Healthcare Company is looking for CHES

The CHES credential is a preferred distinguisher for new hires at CIGNA. CIGNA is one of the largest health benefits companies in the country providing health, life, accident, disability, and other employee and wellness benefits.



NCHEC staff contacted CIGNA to learn why they chose to list their open positions as “CHES preferred.” Janna Trevino, part of their talent acquisition department, stated, “Since NCHEC is a national credentialing board, we believe that this national certification lends credibility to our team in that many of the clients we serve have employees located throughout the country.” CIGNA made the decision to use the designation based on the belief that “health educators who are truly committed to their profession and to helping others live a healthy lifestyle, will seek out continuing education opportunities to demonstrate that commitment. The CHES certification seems to demonstrate that level of commitment and passion for health improvement.”

At CIGNA, the Health Promotion and Wellness Consultant promotes consistent wellness program development, guidelines, and delivery to clients. The Health Promotion and Wellness Consultant works with CIGNA clients with diverse employee populations. This position identifies the appropriate wellness program and setting to educate, engage, and activate employees to achieve health improvement goals. In partnership with the CIGNA account team, the Health Promotion and Wellness Consultant recommends the appropriate delivery and coordination of community and vendor wellness programs, as well as monitoring the effectiveness.

CIGNA and its subsidiaries serve millions of people worldwide through medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision, life, accident and disability benefit plans and insurance. Known as a health and related benefits company, CIGNA’s involvement with customers of all kinds goes deeper than handling insurance claims. Employers look to CIGNA for the expertise, services and tools to help them improve the well-being of their employees. The wide range of programs and services make it possible for members to make more informed decisions and live healthier, more secure lives. CIGNA understands the benefits of hiring a CHES and values the commitment and demonstrated expertise the credential brings to an employer.

For more information and employment opportunities with CIGNA, contact Janna Trevino at: [Janna.Trevino@cigna.com](mailto:Janna.Trevino@cigna.com).

## “CHES Advancing the Profession”

### *Advancing the Health Education Credential and Profession in the United Nations*

*Flora Bloom, EdD, MS, CHES and Kathleen Schmalz, EdD, RN, CHES*

NCHEC would like to recognize Flora Bloom and Kathleen Schmalz for their dedication in the health education profession by being liaisons between numerous organizations. For more than ten years Dr. Flora Bloom and Dr. Kathleen Schmalz have served as representatives to the United Nations (Department of Public Information/Non-governmental Organizations). In honor of their recognition, NCHEC asked Flora and Kathleen to report their role in the UN.

#### **Flora and Kathleen explain their positions:**

“We exchange ideas with other organizations on common interests and concerns and serve as liaisons for the Association for the Advancement of Health Education (AAHE), and International Union for Health Education and Promotion (IUHPE), and the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). Together we represent these three organizations officially at meetings or functions of the UN. Also, we serve as liaisons and avenues of communication between the UN, non-government organizations (NGOs), and the three health education organizations.”

“Through this linkage, AAHE, SOPHE and the IUHPE are able to provide input on various committee activities as well as endorse UN Resolutions relevant to the interest of the health education professions. We are the voice of health educators at an international level.”

#### **How have you benefited from being CHES certified?**

“As Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES), we are recognized by our UN colleagues for our contribution to planning and implementing health promotion and education programs based on the latest research. Besides having our degrees in health education, the CHES credential requires us to keep abreast of new methods and strategies that demonstrate our professional knowledge and competency in the field. Having this credential has been one of the reasons we are invited to give input at UN Committee Meetings on issues dealing with health-related issues.”

#### **Specifically, how does your health education background apply to your position in the UN?**

“Most important is the diversity of populations and cultures inherent in the work of health educators. It is foremost in our approach in bringing visibility to health education policies and activities. As an interdisciplinary applied science with a focus on disease prevention, environment protection, and gender issues we address the needs of varied populations and cultures.”

For more information about CHES in the UN or a list of publications written by Flora and Kathleen, please contact the NCHEC office at [nhec@nhec.org](mailto:nhec@nhec.org).



*Flora Bloom*



*Kathleen Schmalz*

Do you know someone like Flora and Kathleen who does an outstanding job of advancing the credential and the health education profession? If so, please contact the NCHEC office for nominee criteria and instructions at [nhec@nhec.org](mailto:nhec@nhec.org).

## The Surest Way to Personal Growth: Giving Your Time to Service Activities

Mal Goldsmith, PhD, CHES

Immediate Past Chair (2009) ● BOC Chair (2007-2008) ● At-Large Commissioner (2004-2008)



As I finish my final year of service on the NCHCEC Board of Commissioners, I reflect back on five years of growth and accomplishment for NCHCEC, as well as for all those who have graciously donated their time,

energy and commitment to promoting our profession. Very early in my professional career I was mentored by role models who taught me the value of professional involvement. While I love teaching and see the value of scholarly activities, it is through service that I have derived the greatest satisfaction. The friendships, struggles, accomplishments and good times that have emerged from working with my peers reminds me how much we can accomplish collectively to move our profession forward as well as to give us personal fulfillment when we do something for intrinsic rewards.

Many in my generation are very concerned that this volunteer mentality is not a priority of future generations. It is easy to stereotype today's young people as self-serving and unmotivated. I don't buy that! I believe it may take this generation a bit longer to realize what really matters, but when they do, I think they will be every bit

as dedicated as past generations. As a program director for a professional preparation program in health education, I have observed that the first students to get jobs are those that have given of themselves to serve in leadership roles as well as to volunteer their time and energy to various student organizations. More importantly than building their resumes, their service helps them to make connections, develop skills, and gain confidence in their abilities. All of these attributes yield rich rewards.

I was very fortunate to be exposed to Loren Bensley, Larry Olsen and Robert Synovitz early in my career. They brought me into professional organizations and schooled me on the value of service. These lessons have always been a part of how I approached my professional career. The key to me was to get involved in something that can make a difference. More importantly try to find a way to have some fun while you are doing it. This blending of work and play is something that is missing in today's society and reflects why we have so many stress and mental health problems: something I believe to be our biggest health epidemic.

We have many challenges facing our world and us as individuals. You have a choice to be the type of person who complains and does nothing or you can get involved to try

and make a difference. Elizabeth Kubler Ross, the noted psychiatrist and pioneer in death and dying, says that as people get close to dying they typically look back over their life in sort of a life review. Translated they are asking themselves if their life has had meaning. The answer to this question rarely has anything to do with material things. It has everything to do with how you impacted other people and society. This is exactly what volunteering can do for you. It can create opportunities that enable you to do positive things and at the same time feel good about your efforts.

As I move forward in my life journey I know that service will continue to be a significant part of what I do. I hope that each and every one of you will consider giving your time to some sort of service activity, regardless if it is in your local community, in your state, or at the national level. Perhaps you will step up and put your name in to run for an NCHCEC position. If you choose to do so, you can assure yourself of doing a life review that will make you feel satisfied not only near the end of your life, but throughout each and every year. Thank you for allowing me to represent you on the NCHCEC Board and I hope that one day we can be serving side by side, sharing some laughter and doing meaningful work.

## But Let Us Begin... Dixie Dennis, PhD, CHES ● Board of Commissioner's Chairperson Update



What an honor it is for me to have been elected Chair of the NCHCEC Board of Commissioners (BOC)! Not only am I standing on the shoulders of great NCHCEC leaders, such

as Mathew Adeyanju, Past Chair, and Mal Goldsmith, Immediate Past Chair, my chairship comes at one of the most excit-

ing times during the history of NCHCEC. Most specifically representative of such times is the 1) recent National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation of the CHES program, which attests to NCHCEC's efforts to maintain the quality and integrity of the CHES examination processes, 2) Job Analysis Task Force, wherein members are currently busy re-verifying the entry- and advanced-level health education competencies, and 3) preparations for the Master Certified

Health Education Specialist (MCHES) exam, which is scheduled for implementation some time in 2011. I have spearheaded the MCHES efforts, so I look forward to the successes, and even the challenges, as health educators work together, once again, to move the health education profession forward. As John F. Kennedy said during his January, 1961 inaugural address, "All of this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days....But let us begin."

## NCHEC Presents at National Conferences

A report from: Linda Lysoby, MS, CHES • Executive Director, NCHEC



One of the goals in NCHEC's strategic plan is to increase marketing and visibility of the CHES credential. To that end, I am pleased to report that NCHEC has been represented at numerous conferences in the past

year. Within the past four months, I personally have had the honor of presenting at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in addition to three national conferences, American Public Health Association

(APHA), Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and American School Health Association (ASHA).

We plan to continue to strive to have a visible presence at national conferences. Representatives from NCHEC have abstracts accepted for the Eastern District Association (EDA) AAHPERD and AAHE/AHPERD in 2009.

Current CHES are a valuable resource in the promotion and advancement of the credential. See page 6 for more information on the CHES liaison project at uni-

versities. In addition, a revised PowerPoint presentation is available for download from our Web site. This PowerPoint covers the basics of the credential, including reasons to certify, the process to apply for it and some information on the history of the CHES credential. Visit [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org) to obtain this information and consider sharing it with your coworkers, coalition partners or students.

Involvement of many individuals will help to spread the message of the importance of the CHES credential. Thank you for your support.

## Advancing the CHES Credential - the MCHES

In recent months, at the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) headquarters, there have been exciting developments to further enhance the certification of health educators. One development in particular is the decision made by the NCHEC Board of Commissioners (BOC) to begin the processes to implement an advanced-level credential, the Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES). This credential is based upon the 1998-2004 Competencies Update Project (CUP) results and, therefore, will reflect the scope of practice among "advanced level" health educators. The process to create the advanced examination, including writing questions, will commence in 2009.

With an anticipated 2011 exam date, both current CHES and non-CHES health educators will be eligible to sit for the MCHES exam. CHES will be required to have active status for five continuous years immediately

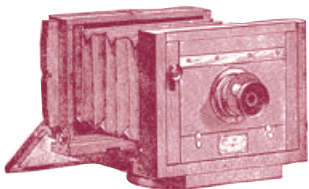
prior to the exam. Non-CHES applicants will be required to have a master's degree or higher in health education, or a master's degree or higher in a related discipline with at least 25 credit hours specific to health education. In addition, the non-CHES applicant must submit supplementary information, such as documentation of five years of advanced practice as a health educator, two letters of recommendation from a current or past supervisor, and a current curriculum vitae/resume. Within the next year, the BOC plans to finalize the specific components of these eligibility requirements.

Prior to the first MCHES exam, NCHEC will announce that CHES who have held active status for the past five consecutive years will have the opportunity to participate in a MCHES Experience Documentation Opportunity, and, thereby, if successful, not be required to take the exam to obtain the

Written by Dixie Dennis, PhD, CHES and Amy Hagen, B.S., CHES

MCHES designation. For a period of six months after the announcement is made for this opportunity, CHES may submit documentation of advanced-level practice and leadership in health education to qualify for the MCHES designation. Please see the article, "NCHEC Position Statement about MCHES," on the NCHEC Web site's news page for detailed requirements.

The opportunity for comments from health educators about the Board of Commissioner's suggested criteria for the MCHES designation was on the NCHEC Web site for two months and closed November 3, 2008. NCHEC thanks all health educators who responded and helped move the health education profession forward. NCHEC welcomes any additional comments, although these comments will not be on record. Details and updates can be found on the NCHEC Web site at <http://www.nchec.org/news/news.htm>.



### Say Cheese!

Submit a picture for the Web site.

NCHEC is looking for pictures of CHES in action to display on our new Web site. If you have a picture of yourself on the job whether it be worksite, nonprofit, classroom, or government, send it to NCHEC. For more information, please visit NCHEC's newspaper online.

### New Jersey and Arkansas require CHES Credential to work for State Health Department!



Recognition of the CHES designation as the leading credential for health educators is growing. Several states and organizations have made significant strides in advancing the credential and are making it a norm amongst its health education professionals.



Is the CHES credential required or preferred in your state or organization? Let NCHEC know at [nchec@nchec.org](mailto:nchec@nchec.org).

# *Congratulations & Thank You*

## **Board Service**

Congratulations to the following Board of Commissioners and Division Board Directors: Elizabeth H. Chaney, Karen Coleman, Betty C. Jung, Roberta Ogletree, Carol DeLong Pyles, and Stephen F. Gambescia who began service in 2009. We would also like to thank Mal Goldsmith, Beverly Saxton Mahoney, Matthew Adeyanju, Kelly Wilson, Sean Kaufman, and Michael Stauffer on the Board of Commissioners and Laura Raser King, Ryan Marie Diduk, Carla M. Gilbreath, Carol Cox, and Judith Luebke on NCHEC's Division Boards as they completed their terms of service in 2008. A sincere thank you to those leaving the board this year and a hearty welcome to those newly elected!

## **Top 20 Reasons to be CHES Certified**

*Compiled by Kelly Wilson, PhD, CHES*

In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the CHES credential, NCHEC asked CHES what they liked about being certified. Below are the top 20 replies. Although this list is not exhaustive of all the reasons to become certified and to maintain certification, it is hoped that CHES will reflect on this list, share it with others and continue to improve their active engagement in the profession of health education in years to come.

1. Be more competitive in the Health Education job market.
2. Continuing education throughout your career.
3. Network and collaborate with other Health Education Specialists.
4. Improve your resume.
5. Stay familiar with Health Education Areas of Responsibility.
6. Resource for job searches.
7. Health Education Specialists demonstrate competencies at their job site.
8. Feel better about your professional career and achievement.
9. Receive CHES continuing education hours at professional conferences.
10. Opportunity to serve on the NCHEC Division Boards and Board of Commissioners.
11. Professional certificate to hang on your office wall.
12. Requirement for open job positions.
13. Submit articles in the CHES Bulletin.
14. Sense of belonging to a significant professional organization.
15. Credit for scholarly activities such as writing books, book chapters, theses, monographs and dissertations.
16. Attests to a Health Education Specialist's knowledge and skills.
17. CHES certification establishes a national standard.
18. Identify fully qualified Health Education Specialists among other applicants.
19. Gives a sense of pride and accomplishment in one's professional career.
20. Promotes continued professional development.

## **HELP SPREAD THE WORD: BE A CAMPUS LIAISON!**

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) is now accepting applications for campus liaisons at colleges and universities across the nation. Campus liaisons will communicate directly with NCHEC as the voice to generate interest in the CHES credential at their school. The campus liaison opportunity is open to both faculty and students employed or attending universities with programs specializing in health education. The liaisons must possess an active CHES credential.

The role of the campus liaison is to support the CHES credential by educating students on the importance of attesting to a national standard. The liaison will convey the benefits of the CHES credential in the workforce and the profession. The liaison will disseminate and facilitate information between the NCHEC organization and students.

Serving as a campus liaison will provide for CHES graduate students who are considering pursuing an advanced degree to become more involved with NCHEC. Campus liaisons will advance the health education profession by marketing CHES and advocating

for the profession on their campus, as well as enhancing one's leadership skills.

It only takes a minimal amount of time to serve as a campus liaison. If you are interested in serving as an NCHEC-CHES campus liaison, please send your application to [nhec@nhec.org](mailto:nhec@nhec.org). Please include the words "campus liaison" in the subject line and include the following information:

### **Applicant information:**

1. CHES ID number
2. Status: student or professor/faculty
3. University/College
4. Major/Concentration/ Position
5. Department Chairs' mailing address (this is requested so that you may be recognized for taking this leadership position)
6. Mailing address to receive information and supplies to use in recruitment efforts
7. Phone number
8. Contact email address to post on NCHEC Web site

## NCHEC Welcomes New CHES - Spring 2008

The following is an additional list of those who earned the distinct title of Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) in the April 2008 examination. NCHEC congratulates those who took the exam within 90-days of graduation and have now submitted documentation of their completion. Those who opted not to be published are excluded from this listing.

Christopher G Arwood	Heather A Cornfeld	Dianna K Hughbanks-Wheaton	Ana Clara Mauro	Samantha Schneider
Jude A Awuba	Valeria Cristales	Janell D Jackson	Mary P Metcalf	Michelle B Shaw
Miranda Baerg	Julie T Dang	Shirley T Jensen	Jessica L Miller	Jessica L Simons
Martha Baldwin	Patricia A DeWitt	Valerie N Johnson	Chiesa N Moffett	Elizabeth M Smither
Lisa M Barnes	Michelle Doose	April R Jones	Terika N Moon	Merieka T Stenson
Stefanie M Bassett	Chaeli A Dougherty	LaNel S Keller	Nikki M Moore	Connie R Stuart
Jessica L Bean	Darcie L Elliott	Paulette M Keo	Rosemarie Murtagh	Erin C Tighe
Karen L Beaty	Ashley J Fernandez	Greta M Klingler	Erik J Nelson	Jevie A Tomilloso
Lisa A Bemben	Jennifer Fertil	Victoria R Krcmarik	Katherine I Nelson	Angie A Toyama
Elizabeth D Berger	Jill M Formanek	Erica Krupp	Samantha J Perry	Jane Tsilova
Christine S Binus	Nicole Grass	Victoria M Lekse	Takia Powell	Stephanie S Weaver
Melissa Bock	April S Grudi	LaToya A Lenoir	Wayde N Proctor	Yohance O Whiteside
Calli L Bright	Emma M Hammond	Carolyn Lertzman	Alexa F Prunella	Jennifer E Wiesenauer
Tonia M Calder	Cordelia S Hanna-Cheruiyot	Audrey Y Long	Ivan C Ranada	Robin D Williamson Sr
Patricia A Carney	Stephanie M Henry	Cynthia P Low	Susan M Randall	Marcee W Mortensen
Kate A Chien	Shannon N Hodge	Anne M Maher	Erin Reiney	Amber L Troyer
Lori B Christenson	Ellen S Holbrook	Rebecca M Malcheff	Alyssa M Rodgers	
Mei Kin Chung	Katie O Hoover	Tia L Mann	Amber E Sarnowski	

## Health Educator Job Analysis Update

*Written by Eva Doyle PhD, MEd, CHES and Beverly Saxton Mahoney, RN, MS, PhD, CHES*

The national *Health Educator Job Analysis* project, which was announced in May of 2008, was initiated in August and is currently in progress. This 16-month project, guided by experts from the Professional Examination Service (PES) and the project steering committee (AAHE, SOPHE, and NCHEC leadership), is designed to meet recommendations from the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) for periodic analysis.

Approximately 65 volunteer health educators were selected from a pool of 200 nominees from across the nation to represent diverse demographics and practice settings. These volunteers are working through multiple stages of the project as task force members, telephone interview participants, independent reviewers, or survey pilot participants to help create a competency-based survey instrument for the job analysis. Findings from the *National Health Educator Competencies Update Project (CUP): 1998-2004*, recommendations from national leaders, and input provided from the various groups of volunteers about their current practice settings all serve as the framework for instrument development. The entire process to develop the instrument is being facilitated by representatives from PES, based on decades of experience with a multitude of professional licensing and certifying agencies. The task force had its first meeting in September of 2008, and will meet again in January and May of 2009.

The job analysis survey instrument will first be tested in a pilot study and then distributed in the spring of 2009 to a national stratified sample of approximately 4500 health educators representing diverse professional and demographic categories. Survey results and recommendations from the Health Educator Job Analysis Task Force are scheduled for completion by the fall of 2009. Once the data has been analyzed and PES has made its report, NCHEC will distribute the resulting information to the profession, and the Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs) will incorporate any needed changes into future test items.

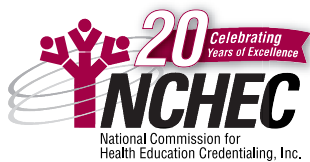


*The Job Analysis Task Force (JATF) held their first meeting at the NCHEC office in Whitehall, PA on September 19 and 20, 2008.*

*Left to right seated: Mary Marks, Darcy Scharff, Michael Stauffer; Kelly Alley, Carla Caro (PES staff member). Left to right standing: Alyson Taub, Becky Smith (Steering committee), Carol Younkin, Eva Doyle, Lillie Hall, Pat Muenzen (PES staff member), James McKenzie, Michael McNeil, Chesley Cheatham, Elaine Auld (Steering Committee)*

*Not pictured Steering Committee: Beverly Mahoney and Linda Lysoby*

# The CHES Bulletin



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

National Commission for  
Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

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Web site: [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org)

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## Go Green with NCHEC!

In 2009, NCHEC is taking steps to decrease paper use. Support NCHEC's efforts, please update contact information and pay renewal/recertification dues online through the NCHEC Web site.

### NCHEC STAFF

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