

# The CHES Bulletin



**Inside you will find:**

Leadership News	pg 3
News and Updates	pg 4
Change in Retired Status Policy	pg 5
New CHES Spring 2006	pgs 6-7
Highest Scorer Spring 2006	pg 7
NCHEC Exhibits 2006/2007	back cover



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Michael Staufacker, MA, CHES (Coordinator, DBPD) [2006-2007]  
Amos Aduroja, PhD, MPH, CHES (Coordinator, DBPPP) [2006-2007]  
Eric Buhi, MPH, CHES (Vice-Coordinator, DBCHEs) [2006-2007]  
Sean Kaufman, MPH, CHES (Vice-Coordinator, DBPD) [2006-2007]  
Carolyn Cox, PhD, CHES (Vice-Coordinator, DBPPP) [2006-2007]  
Lisa M. Carlson, MPH, CHES (At-Large) [2005-2009]  
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## DIVISION BOARDS

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Susan Butler, EdD, CHES [2002-2006]  
Eleanor Dixon-Terry, MPH, CHES [2003-2007]  
Laura Rasar King, MPH, CHES [2004-2008]  
Cherryll Ranger, BSN, GCPh, CHES [2005-2009]  
Brenda Marshall, EdD, MS, BA, CHES [2006-2010]

### Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists

Dixie L. Dennis, PhD, CHES (Coordinator) [2003-2007]  
Eric Buhi, MPH, CHES (Vice-Coordinator) [2003-2007]  
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Andrea James, MPH, CHES [2004-2008]  
Jacquie Rainey, MS, DrPH, CHES [2005-2009]  
Beverly Saxton Mahoney, RN, MS, PhD, CHES [2005-2009]  
James McKenzie, BS, MEd, PhD, MPH, CHES [2006-2010]

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Lisa Roth-Edwards, MPH, CHES [2003-2006]  
Jody Ruth Steinhardt, MPH, CHES [2003-2006]  
Jiunn-Jye Sheu, MSPH, PhD, CHES [2005-2009]  
Kelly Wilson, MEd, PhD, CHES [2005-2009]

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## Mission Statement

The mission of The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. is to improve the practice of health education and to serve the public and profession of health education by certifying health education specialists, promoting professional development, and strengthening professional preparation and practice.



## LEADERSHIP NEWS



### A note from the Executive Director

I am happy to report that a record number of 806 candidates registered for the Spring CHES exam. The increased volume may be a result of the increasing presence of the words "CHES required" and "CHES preferred" in job postings. By now you should have received your fall informational mailing. Included in that packet is your most current transcript of continuing education contact hours (CECH), address change form, and

the election ballot. Please take the time to review this material. For those individuals who were originally certified in the fall, your billings were included in the packet. You are encouraged to pay in a timely manner to avoid late fees. Remember you can pay renewal fees online using the username and password that were included in your mailing.

Also in the packet were a ballot and candidate profile for the elections for positions on the Division Boards of NCHEC. This is your opportunity to elect those individuals who will represent your interests on these boards. Please take the time to complete and return the ballot by September 30, 2006. Your vote matters!

As a friendly reminder, all CHES need to earn 75 CECH within their 5-year recertification cycle. It is encouraged, but not required, that you accumulate an average of 15 CECH per year. I urge you to plan ahead and not be struggling to fulfill your requirements at the end of your cycle. The number and scope of the continuing education opportunities offered by designated providers has significantly increased, and new providers are listed in this newsletter. For more information on continuing education requirements and opportunities, visit [www.nchec.org/content/edu.asp](http://www.nchec.org/content/edu.asp). Thank you for your continuing support of the CHES credential.

Linda Lysoby, MS, CHES  
Executive Director



### A note from the Chair of the Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners held its annual weekend meeting at the NCHEC office in Whitehall, PA from March 31 to April 2, 2006. It was rewarding to interact with such a dedicated and committed group of health

professionals. In addition to the normal administration of NCHEC business, a large portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the implications of the findings of the Health Educator Competencies Update Project (CUP). The process is already well underway to revise the CHES exam based on the new responsibilities and competencies. This exam will be administered for the first time in October 2007. Thanks to all the commissioners who participated in this annual face-to-face meeting.

The revised responsibilities and competencies have been released in the document, "*A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators - 2006*." A revised study guide for the exam is well underway with an expected release by the end of this year.

The possibility of an additional health education credential for more advanced levels of practice is being explored. As always, activities discussed at the meeting were in line with NCHEC's strategic plan. We are in the process of adding a public member to the Board of Commissioners. In recent years it has become common practice to have a "public member" serve on boards, someone not directly related to the certification to represent the interest of the consumer of services.

As a result of the completion of the Competencies Update Project, there are many changes underway at NCHEC. Please continue to check the website and mailings for updates on pertinent information.

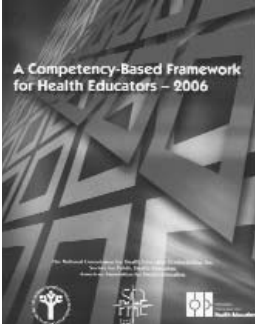
In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all Commissioners for their continued dedication and excellent spirit of service to NCHEC and the health education profession in general. Thanks for all you do, and I do appreciate your support.

Take care and have a pleasant summer.

Matthew Adeyanju, PhD, MPH, CHES  
Chair, Board of Commissioners, NCHEC



The Board of Commissioners held their annual face-to-face meeting at the NCHEC office on March 31 - April 2, 2006. Pictured above from left to right (first row, seated): Amos Aduroja, DBPPP Coordinator; Kelly Bishop-Alley, Immediate Past Chair; (second row): Sean Kaufman, DBPD Vice-Coordinator; Rick Schulze, At-Large Commissioner; Dixie Dennis, Vice-Chair and DBCHEs Coordinator; Carol Cox, DBPPP Vice-Coordinator; (third row): Mal Goldsmith, Treasurer; Eva Doyle, Secretary; Michael Staufacker, DBPD Coordinator; Eric Buhi, DBCHEs Vice-Coordinator; and Matthew Adeyanju, Chair. Missing from the photo is Lisa Carlson, At-Large Commissioner. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) oversees the work of NCHEC. The BOC defines the mission and strategic plan, approves the annual budget, establishes policies, directs the activities of three Division Boards, and advocates for credentialing.



**ESSENTIAL REFERENCE -  
ORDER NOW!**

The new publication, “A *Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators - 2006*,” presents a new hierarchical model for health education practice at the entry level and two advanced levels. Included are seven updated areas of responsibility as well as 35 competencies and 163 subcompetencies. The document also describes the historical development and evolution of a competency-based model for health education, summarizes the CUP research leading up to the latest model, and interprets the significance of changes in the new model. It is an essential reference for all health education students, faculty, practitioners, employers, policymakers, funding agencies, and any organization that provides workforce development and training for health educators. The document includes an assessment tool to measure the degree to which professional preparation curricula address respective subcompetencies, and a detailed comparison of the old and new responsibilities, competencies and subcompetencies. This publication is recommended for use in preparation for the revised CHES Exam effective October 2007.

It is available for purchase via the NCHEC website, [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org).

An Update from the Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs)  
Beverly Mahoney, Jacquie Rainey and Dixie Dennis

The DBCHEs directors have had a very active 18 months. In June 2005, we received the results of the Competencies Update Project (CUP), and the new, hierarchical model that was developed to describe the scope of practice for the Health Education profession. During the summer of 2005, a DBCHEs sub-committee reviewed and compared CUP areas of responsibility, competencies, and sub-competencies with existing ones. For a detailed listing, refer to Appendix B of “*A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators-2006*.”

In August of 2005, board members met at NCHEC headquarters for the annual face-to-face meeting. During this time, we met with representatives from the Professional Examination Services to review the status of the certification process and to plan for the future. At this meeting we re-rubricated all of the existing test bank items according to the new framework.

As we moved into fall 2005, via our monthly telephone conference meetings, directors continued working on the new entry-level exam and preparing for the National Congress of Health Educators. During the national congress, which was held in Dallas, Texas, on February 23-25, 2006, DBCHEs directors presented at three different sessions, sharing information about the new framework with those in attendance. Also, throughout the year, DBCHEs directors have participated in discussions regarding the new framework at the annual meetings of AAHE, SOPHE, and ASHA.

During the summer and fall of 2006, DBCHEs directors will again be concerned with testing issues. We will convene in Whitehall, PA once in July for our item-writing workshop to add additional items to the test bank that address the new areas of responsibility, competencies, and sub-competencies, and again in September for our test construction session. In the meantime, individual board directors are assessing the areas that will require the addition of new items.

We have been eliciting input from professionals via our various meetings regarding the possibility of an advanced credential. Issues for discussion focus on the central questions of:

- a) should the profession have an advanced credential,
- b) if so, what should be the eligibility requirements, and,
- c) what form (test, folio, or other measures) should the demonstration of achievement take?

At this point, we welcome input from all CHES and other interested professionals regarding your opinions and thoughts about this issue by completing the survey that will be available via the NCHEC website.

**Still need continuing education contact hours? Check out these new Category I  
MULTIPLE EVENT PROVIDERS**

**Pacific Public Health Training Center**  
UCLA School of Public Health  
Box 951772, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772  
310-794-7028 [www.pphtc.org](http://www.pphtc.org)

**South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**  
1331 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 140, Columbia, SC 29201  
803-771-7700 [www.teenpregnancysc.org](http://www.teenpregnancysc.org)

**Health Education Administration - LA County**  
3530 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90010  
213-351-7865 [www.ladhs.org](http://www.ladhs.org)

**State Associations of Addiction Services**  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 505,  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-546-4600 [www.saasnet.org](http://www.saasnet.org)

# News and Updates



## Five Years of Service at NCHEC

Congratulations to Sandy Schlegel, NCHEC's Continuing Education Coordinator, who has five years of service with NCHEC. An award was given to Sandy by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners during its meeting in Whitehall, PA.

## Change in Retired Status Policy

The Board of Commissioners has revised the **RETIRED** status policy. Effective July 1, 2006, the following policy will go into effect:

*"A CHES who is permanently retired from health education and is in active status/good standing may apply for retired status. After retired status is approved and awarded, a retired CHES must use CHES (ret.) after his/her name. Retired status is considered a permanent status. No CECH requirement exists for CHES in retired status. The annual renewal fee is \$15.00."*

Please contact Sandy Schlegel, Continuing Education Coordinator, at 888-624-3248, extension 14 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this change.

## Division Board for Professional Development

The DBPD recommends policies and procedures related to the designation of continuing education providers, recertification and the annual renewal of CHES; recommends fees for recertification, annual renewal and provider designation; and assures that the processes are monitored and periodically evaluated. Meet the people who are serving on the DBPD. The directors are all volunteers who conduct conference calls monthly and meet once a year. Below is a brief introduction of each director.

### Michael Stauffer, MA, CHES (Coordinator)



Michael began his term in 2004 as a Director. He served as Vice-Coordinator in 2005 and is currently holding the position of Coordinator. Michael is the Director of Program Development at StayWell Health Management. He graduated with the following degree: \*MA in Health Science: Community Health Education from Ball State University.

### Sean Kaufman, MPH, CHES (Vice-Coordinator)



Sean began his term in 2005 as a Director. He is currently holding the position of Vice-Coordinator. Sean is the Director of Programs at Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, and Chief Public Health Officer at Go2Gear, Inc. He graduated with the following degrees: \*BS in Psychology and a MPH in Health Promotion from San Diego State University.

### Susan Butler, EdD, CHES (Director)



Susan began her term in 2002 as a Director. She served as Vice-Coordinator in 2003, and as Coordinator in 2004 and 2005. Susan is an Assistant Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. She graduated with the following degree: \*EdD in Health Education from the University of Tennessee.

### Eleanor Dixon-Terry, MPH, CHES (Director)



Eleanor began her term in 2003 as a Director and is currently holding that position. Eleanor is Assistant Executive Director at the Society for Public Health Education. She graduated with the following degree: \*MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### Laura Rasar King, MPH, CHES (Director)



Laura began her term in 2004 as a Director and is currently holding that position. Laura is the Executive Director at the Council on Education for Public Health. She graduated with the following degrees: \*BA in Psychology from American University, and \*MPH from George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

### Cherryll Ranger, BSN, GCPH, MA, CHES (Director)



Cherryll began her term in 2005 as a Director and is currently holding that position. Cherryll is a CDR US PHS; Nurse Educator/GIS Training Specialist at ATSDR, Division of Health Studies, Office of the Director. She graduated with the following degrees: \*BSN from Nazareth College School of Nursing, \*GCPH from Emory University School of Public Health, and \*MA in Educational Technology Leadership from George Washington University Graduate School of Educational and Human Development.

### Brenda Marshall, EdD, MS, BA, CHES (Director)



Brenda began her term in 2006 as a Director and is currently holding that position. Brenda is an Assistant Professor of Health Education at Montclair State University. She graduated with the following degrees: \*EdD with a specialization in Health Education, \*MS in Administration and Management of Health Programs from New York University's Wagner School of Public Administration, and \*MS in Health Education.

## Congratulations NEW CHES Spring of 2006 \*\*

Jennifer L Abrams	Reneya M Colvin	Melissa T Garcia	Tiffany M Jones	Elizabeth A Meissen
Hayley K Adams	Mary K Connor	Jennifer L Gathman	Alison L Jordan	Katie M Mercer
Lillian L Agbeyegbe	Bryce C Conway	Adrienne J Gent	Amandeep K Kalsi	Nicole Michael
Kristina P Ahmed	Kelley L Coulter	Lisa T Gilmore	Harrison N Kamiru	Cara M Miller
Eunice T Akinola	Kelly L Crane	Erin O Gleaton	Linsey J Karwoski	Adrienne C Mitchell
Elizabeth C Alexander	Melissa Crase	Nicholas Godbey	Megan T Kelly	Billie A Mitchell
Robert L Alexander	Lydia W Crawford	Gina A Goebel	Claire A Kendrick	Mariela M Molina-Smith
Carol Anderson	Melanie H Creel	Amber E Goldberg	Jane N Kimani	Heather R Montoya
Janice M Anderson	Raeanne I Criscio	Kathryn L Goodman	Kimberly A Kisler	Kathryn Morris-Moose
Robin Anderson	Gillian S Cross	Shirley Gotfryd	Narquita A Kizzie	Gini E Moss
Vanessa E Anderson	Meaghan Cunningham	Sarah M Graff	Kaylee L Knoff	Rita Rena Mozian
Lorilee Ansell	Padmavati Dandamudi	Marc W Grasley	Cindi M Kolb	Celene B Mulholland
Jaime L Armstrong	Lauren B Daugherty	Rebecca C Greco	Katherine L Kommer	Judy Murnan
Jaime L Armstrong	Christopher M Davis	Adriane L Green	Elizabeth M Kovalchik	Jessalyn Murray
Jamie M Athas	Jennifer A Davis	Brooke L Greenlee	Ruth A Kowallis	Abigail M Nadler
Martin A Ayim	Meg E Davis	Abbey Hadley	Susan Kudla	Jacqueline Napoli
Janet K Baggett	Megan E Davis	Waynitra C Hall	Lisa M Laake	Gunyaporn NaThalang
Vanessa L Baker	Rhonda J Davis	Amanda J Hand	Robin L Lankton	Dan Neisner
Kristi L Baldwin	Rebecca DeKeyrel	JaNellyn B Hannah	Kristen Lantz	Jennifer Neisse
John V Banagan	Stefanie M Delmastro	Keisha N Hanson	Lindsey V Lastra	Linda W Nelms
Jamie L Bango	Donna L DeLuca	Wendy G Harper	Monica Lathan	Ashley A Nelson
Kimberly M Bardell	Janet L DeMars	April L Harris	Michelle D Lee	Hoa N Nguyen
Alyssa P Barkley	Elizabeth R Dembo	Jamila Harris	Catherine A LeMar	Linda T Nguyen
Barbara A Barton	Katherine A Denter	Kimberly K Harris	Clare M Lenhart	Long S Nguyen
Jill D Bates	Dy-Juan M DeRoza	Nicole Harris-	Tiffany Lentz	Tiffany M Nigro
Jennifer L Batoon	Virginia Dicken	Hollingsworth	Sheila M Leonard	Elizabeth R Nolan
Joy D Beckwith	Cara M DiCristina	Jennifer Harrison-Hauer	Elizabeth J Levy	Carrie M Norbeck
Abby M Best	Ryan Marie Diduk	Jacque Hartke	Ann J Lewicki	Vanessa R Noriega
Abhishek Bhardwaj	Amber V Dillard	Latasha N Haskell	Ayesha M Lewis	Kim A Norris
Erin K Black	Megan Dinsdale	Susan E Haury	Sharmeka L Lewis	Barbara K Northern
Rachel P Block	Michelle L Dobberstein	Caryn L Haywood	Camonia R Long	Kerry L O'Brien
Hillary C Boguski	Amy J Dobson	Ashley E Heath	Lindsay N Loughhead	Melissa K Oden
Sarah Bolt	Meghan E Doherty	Lisa R Hebert	Aimee M Luber	Leilani A Ogan
Lizette Borboa	Marialena Dominguez	Angela B Hedworth	Jennifer N Luca	Amy E Oggel
Mona L Bormet	Victoria J Dooly	Kelley L Heflin	Kimberly A Luz	Manda D Oien
Jessica Bowen	Nancy J Doucette	Karen Heppeler	Elizabeth Lynch	Darrin Okimoto
Rebekah D Bowen	Kristopher S Downing	Heather M Heyden	Jennifer L Macali	Erika J Olson
Erin L Boyer	Alycia E Downs	Leslie K Hickcox	Lynn M Madsen	Sandra Olson
Tameika Bradley-Tomlin	Ashlee E Dozier	Casie Higginbotham	Debra C Mahadeo	Yolanda O'Neal
Amber D Brashear	Amanda M Drake	Keisha S Hightower	Erin M Maher	Nicole Ostrowsky-Fabisch
Nikia D Braxton	Megan R Drake	Kimberly A Hiner	Ann D Mahoney	Andrea J Osuna
Patrice N Brooks	Anne M Duffey	James H Hines Jr	Allison M Maiuri	Desiree N Ott
Jessica T Brown	Pamela R Duthie	Susan R Hochman	Nadege K Makelele	Meredith L Overton
Joyce L Brown	Jim W Egeberg	Jennifer M Hodges	Elizabeth A Makins	Sherrie Pace
Lindsay N Brown	Molly J Ehler	Jessica W Holmes	Minzah Z Malik	Amanda K Page
Patricia L Brown	Amie L Eisenhut	Devika M Howard	Dean E Manning	Meredith R Palmer
Carol I Brush	Amanda J England	Ethel Hoyt	Jodel Manning	Jane E Panse
Robin Bryski	Tanja M Englberger	Cara M Huber	Pamela A Manning	Maisha D Parnell
Jennifer Bueschel	Carolyn D Estes	Nazlin Huerta	Sondra L Manske	Reuben Parrish
Victoria E Burden	Bridget O Fagbeyiro	David W Hunter	Grace E Marriott	Kathleen Passuth Bombery
Heidi R Burkey	Deeonna E Farr	Kimberly L Irwin	Katie M Martinek	Amy J Patsch
Janet M Burnett	Leah E Fidler	Jacqueline L Iwanski	Shondra R McCage	Jacqueline D Peery
Megan R Burns	Tammi L Fleming	Erin L Jackson	Yvonne McCann	Hilary A Perdue
Loida J Burrowes	Jeremiah G Flower	Elizabeth D Jacobs	Sarah A McClure	Lutheria N Peters
Jennifer L Butler	Chanita W Ford	Dorota Janiec	Ellen A McCracken	Anne B Petersen
Maureen M Bylina	Diedra L Foret	Jennifer N Johns	Stephanie L McElwee	Laura J Peterson
Shakitia A Caldwell	Adam C Forker	Erin M Johnson	Robin E McGee	Deborah A Phillips
James R Carey	Princess Fortin	Jessica M Johnson	Emma E McGinty	Kelly Plotz-Faciana
Kimberly R Carter	Luanne S Francis	Maria L Johnson	Kristen McGinty	Valerie N Pogue
Kendria L Cartledge	Louisa A Franco	Phillip R Johnson	Kira J McGroarty	Suzanne N Poindexter
Shana E Cash	April W Frank	Jennifer Johnston	Jackie D McLean	Irina Polanco-Ventura
Levi J Caverly	Tiffany M Frieztze	Frances Jones	Chase M McManus	Wanda L Polderman
Lei-Shih Chen	Marcia S Fritz	Leigh Jones	Kelsey N McManus	Wendy A Pollard
Sarah V Childers	Nicole E Fulwood	Lindsey R Jones	Amanda S Mead	Courtney Power-Freeman
Jeanne K Coleman	Jose R Garcia	Sheelagh M Jones	Hilary A Meade	Tara M Powers

## Congratulations NEW CHES Spring of 2006 (cont) \*\*

Anna E Price	Bridget E Rogala	Kristin M Shiffer	Michelle R Thomas	Cedric D Whitfield
Janis A Price	Nicole L Rogers	Hee-sung Shin	Kathryn C Tingey	Larrell L Wilkinson
Mary Lou Pruent	Brandy M Rollins	Sarabeth W Shreffler	Nina M Tohannie	Carrie E Williams
Jessica A Pyjas	Marisela Romero	Colleen E Sikina	Georgia C Torres	Deborah M Williams
Nina A Queen	Christine J Ross	Nicole M Sisen	Anna C Treacy	Justin A Williams
Sarah K Query	Melissa A Ross	Jacqueline Siukola	Shalawa A Triggs	Makeda Williams
Brian M Rahmer	Brieana D Roumeliotis	Tompkins	Tara N Troke	Mari Williams
Evelyn M Ramirez	Elizabeth R Rutherford	John M Sivon, Jr	Nandi A Troutman	Ronald D Williams Jr.
Karina Y Ramos	David N Sallee	Nicola A Skyers	Natalie T True	Paula S Williams-Valencia
Mario D Ramsey	Jennifer L Salvato	Kala C Small	Katherine E Tunney	Andrea Wilson
Tammy Randazzo	Dominika Samojlik	Lindsey K Smith	Louise Adeline Turner Saw	Anne H Winston
Aazamina Rangwala	Brandi E Sankey	Shonna L Snyder	Lindsay E Tymon	Amy L Wixted
Alissa D Rankin	Joseph C Saville	Ana Maria Soto	Veronica Valentin -	Stephanie N Wolf
Marielle W Rasmussen	Janilla S Schaub	LaPronda I Spann	Redmond	Megan E Woodcock
Courtney L Redman	Trisha L Schiltz	Lynne C Spano	Katherine M Varin	Tammy M Woodring
Elizabeth S Reeves	Amy M Schreffler	Faith N Ssebikindu	Sara C Velasquez	Christine M Wyrsh
Melissa Rehrig	Pamela W Schu	Sara L Sterling	Geetha K Veliah	Justina B Yaung
Raquel Renteria Beloney	Blythe E Scott	Chris F Stewart	Elizabeth Velotti	Julia Yoo Ro
Brittany A Rhea	Karen C Secor	Michael A Stinson	Laura B Vernon	Jason J Zakaras
Jayne D Richards	Shawn M Sellers	Kathryn M Strupp	Lori A Viveros	Aimee L Zimmerman
Abby A Rierson	Karisa M Sepp	Michelle R Stuart	Robin A Walker	
Emily M Ripken	Erin M Shanahan	Scott L Szalkiewicz	Leah D Warner	
Casandra L Roache	Hamidah S Sharif	Meredith M Talford	Jay C Webster	
Ashley M Robbins	Aarti S Shastry	Aileen C Tareg	Lynn A Weimer	
Janet L Roberts	Danielle L Shatley	Kiche Tate	Julie C Wells	
Kimberly K Roberts	Margarita Shawcross	Tiffany R Taylor	Taryn C West	
LaTyce N Robinson	Sarah C Shelton	Heather M Tevebaugh	Amanda L Westmoreland	
Jennifer A Roche	Jared E Shenk	Bindu Tharian	Virginia M Wheatley	
Juan L Rodriguez	Robin D Shepherd	Allen B Thomas	Allison D Wheeler	

\*\* Individuals who selected the "Do Not Publish" option and those who qualified for the exam under the 90-day option but have not presented documentation of graduation are not listed above.



### Congratulations! Paula Williams-Valencia was the Highest Scorer on the April 2006 CHES Exam

Paula Williams-Valencia, CHES, earned the highest score on the April 2006 CHES Exam. She received her MPH in Community Health, Behavioral Science and Health Education from UCLA and her BS in Communication Arts-Public Relations/Marketing from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Paula is employed as a Health Educator at L.A. Care Health Plan, a not-for-profit health plan for Medicaid and Healthy Families, with more than 750,000 members.

When asked why she became certified, she replied, "I completed my MPH in Health Education more than 10 years ago, in 1994. I wanted to become certified as a health education specialist to enhance my credibility and qualifications as a professional. Personally, I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it!!"



Anna Torres Salemi

### Certified Health Education Specialist stands for Excellence in Health Education An Interview with Anna Torres Salemi, CHES

Submitted by Brenda Marshall, DBPD Director

What makes a professional reach for personal best? How can excellence in education and professionalism be promoted? We think that some of our CHES have found the answers to these questions and are models of excellence in health education. The following interview is the first of a series of profiles on CHES whose love of lifelong learning, and desire to achieve their professional pinnacle, sets them apart as role models of achievement. Anna is completing her doctoral thesis at South Florida University on the topic of the Social Construction of School Refusal. She also works as the resident night manager at the American Cancer Society's Benjamin Medick Hope Lodge. Somehow, between researching and writing her dissertation, spending time with her husband, and meeting the requirements of her job, Anna has made time to earn far more than the required 75 CHES CECH needed for her recertification.

It was no easy task catching up with her for this interview, but it was well worth the perseverance. Anna was asked what she saw as the greatest benefit of her CHES status, and she said that it was all about reflecting a professional standard. "When people see CHES after your name, they understand that you know the required body of knowledge and that you are committed to professionalism."

I asked her about why she had many more CECH than the requirement, and she answered, "I don't even think about that. I'm a learner. I don't see the CECH as a requirement, but as a product of being a professional. Health education is not a stagnant field, and to stay at the top of your game, you make that commitment. I'm passionate about what I do, and taking these courses ... well, it's like my heartbeat or breathing ... it's a critical function."

It is for these reasons we want to salute you, Anna, for your passion, commitment and excellent role modeling. We take this opportunity to wish Anna congratulations on the great achievement of pursuing her doctorate, which she sees as only another step in her quest for professional excellence.

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## Stop by and visit the NCHEC Exhibit in 2006/2007



Linda Lysoby, NCHEC's Executive Director, met with Pannee Banchonhattakit, an Associate Professor in Thailand at the AAHPERD Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pannee is currently attending Emory University and stopped by the NCHEC booth to learn more about the CHES credential.

For more information on upcoming conferences, visit the providers' website.

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) November 2-4, 2006, Boston, MA, [www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org)

American Public Health Association (APHA) November 4-8, 2006, Boston, MA, [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (AAHPERD) March 13-17, 2007, Baltimore, MD, [www.aahperd.org](http://www.aahperd.org)

For more continuing education opportunities visit [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org)

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