

The CHES Bulletin

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Spring 2010

THE MCHES EDO IS A ONE TIME OPPORTUNITY

Written by Melissa Rehrig, MPH, CHES

The launch of the advanced-level credential, MCHES, is approaching quickly. The MCHES Experience Documentation Opportunity, (EDO) is a one-time occasion when CHES can document experience to qualify for the MCHES certification. For six months only, beginning in October 2010, CHES who have held active status for the past five consecutive years will have the opportunity to elect an assessment mechanism of his/her experience. They can participate in the MCHES EDO. If successful, CHES will not be required to take the exam to obtain the MCHES designation. The information needed to complete the EDO is below:

- ❖ The Experience Self-Appraisal form will be completed by the applicant, briefly detailing his/her engagement in four advanced health education activities. Each of the four advanced activities must be linked to an advanced competency in the corresponding Area of Responsibility. The activities must have occurred within the last five years of practice.
- ❖ Two completed Testament of Practice forms from a current/past supervisor/manager who can attest to the applicant's advanced level of practice



- ❖ A Resume/CV (5 pages or less)

This is a one time-limited opportunity that will open on Oct. 15, 2010 and will close on April 16, 2011. More information on the EDO can be found on the NCHEC Web site, www.nchec.org. In the spring of 2010, the forms will be released to allow ample time for candidates to gather the required documentation. The fees for the EDO will range from \$200 to \$290 depending on submission deadlines. Please see table below. The first MCHES designation will be awarded in April 2011.

	1st deadline 12/1/2010	2nd deadline 1/15/2011	3rd deadline 3/1/2011	Final deadline 4/16/2011
MCHES Experience (CHES) Documentation Opportunity	\$200	\$210	\$240	\$290

SOME FAQs REGARDING THE EDO AND MCHES

1) What are the fees for MCHES exam?

Type of Applicant	1st deadline	2nd deadline	3rd deadline	Final deadline
Exam (CHES)	\$250	\$260	\$290	\$340
Exam (non-CHES)	\$300	\$310	\$340	\$390

2) I am a CHES with less than five years active status but have five years experience in the Health Education/Public Health Field and I will graduate with an MPH in May 2011. Am I eligible for the EDO or MCHES exam. *You could be eligible for the first MCHES exam in Oct 2011, but would not be eligible for the EDO. For the EDO you must be an active CHES for at least five years by Oct 2010.*

3) I have five years experience and five years as a CHES by April 2011 but not by Oct. 2010, so I do not qualify for the EDO. Therefore, I plan to sit for the MCHES in October 2011. Yet, I will be up for renewal for my CHES in April 2011. Do I go ahead and renew my CHES and then sit for the exam? If I pass will I be reimbursed the \$55 fee? *Yes, renewing your CHES in April will ensure that you do not have a lapse in certification status. If you complete your five year certification cycle in April 2011 (75 credit hours plus pay the \$55 renewal fee) you will be eligible to apply for the MCHES exam as a five year CHES when it opens in October 2011. Your five-*

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Visit *Linked in* on our Web site.

CHECK OUT THE CHES BULLETIN ONLINE: www.nchec.org/news/news.htm

year CHES certification serves as your experience documentation for the examination application; you would not need to send in any additional experience documentation or transcripts. You would automatically be eligible to take the MCHES exam as a five-year active CHES. The exam fee for active CHES is discounted by \$50 compared to non CHES. So the discount essentially offsets the renewal fee paid in April.

- 4) Can a credential holder revert back from the MCHES certification to CHES if he/she doesn't maintain the 30 credit hours for the advanced credential? *Yes. Seventy-five (75) CECH in five (5) are required for recertification. Thirty (30) of those CECH must be linked to advanced-level Competencies. MCHES, who previously were active CHES, who fail to comply with recertification requirements for the advanced credential, may revert back to CHES status if they meet the recertification requirements for a CHES (45 Cat I/30 Cat II).*

- 5) Is a new ID number assigned to an individual once they become MCHES? *No, the number will remain the same, the designation changes from CHES to MCHES. Having the same ID number will avoid confusion for providers and certified individuals.*
- 6) What are the advantages of becoming MCHES? *The MCHES designation is for those health education specialists practicing at an advanced-level. MCHES validates that one is skilled in advanced-level Responsibilities and Competencies in the health education profession and provides an opportunity and reward to achieve advanced-level continuing education. The MCHES designation differentiates one from being an entry-level health education specialist which establishes professional identity while an advanced-level health education specialist confirms professional development.*

**SOPHE
Conference**

**April 7-9,
2010**

**Sheraton Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia**

www.sophe.org



As you ACT to Enhance and Exchange
Research & Practice at the Mid-year
SOPHE Conference

Discover and Explore the **CHES/MCHES Lounge!**

While in Atlanta, come by and enjoy the benefits...

▶ Refreshments
▶ Information
▶ Giveaways

On **Thursday, April 8, from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm**
NCHEC staff and board members will be available to answer questions regarding the **Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)** and the **New Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES)**.




Anyone and everyone is welcome!

Next Exam Dates

Tell a colleague or student that the next CHES exam dates are **October 16, 2010** and **April 23, 2011**. For more information, visit the Web site at www.nchec.org or contact the exam coordinator at 888-624-3248, ext 12.

OCTOBER 2010

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	31

APRIL 2011

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	31

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
SOPHE 2010 Midyear & CDC Prevention Research Center	www.sophe.org	April 7-9, 2010	Atlanta, Georgia
ACHA Annual Meeting	www.acha.org	June 1-5, 2010	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
ASHA	www.ashaweb.org	October 13-16, 2010	Kansas City, Missouri
SOPHE 61st Annual Meeting	www.sophe.org	November 6-10, 2010	Denver, Colorado
APHA 138th Annual Meeting and Exposition	www.apha.org	November 6-10, 2010	Denver, Colorado

Highlights of NCHEC'S Major Accomplishments in 2009 and the Challenges of 2010

W. William Chen, Ph.D., CHES, Chair, Board of Commissioners



It is an honor and privilege to be elected to serve as Chair of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) for 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the major accomplishments for 2009. The NCHEC Executive Director, staff, BOC, and Division Board Directors have contributed to these accomplishments.

A major accomplishment was the passing of the Policy Statement regarding Advanced Credentialing (MCHES) by the BOC in May

2009. For the past five years, NCHEC had been in communication with the health education profession regarding the advanced-level certification. After seeking input from health education professionals and careful deliberation and discussion among the commissioners, the BOC voted to implement the advanced-level credential commencing in 2010.

Another major accomplishment is completion of the Health Educator Job Analysis (HEJA) project. The HEJA is a project designed to meet recommendations from the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) for periodic analysis. The purpose of the analysis is to validate the contemporary practice of entry-level and experienced health education professionals. Job analysis experts from the Professional Examination Service (PES) have guided this project and worked very closely with a steering committee represented by leaders from the American Association for Health Education (AAHE), the National

Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) and Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). The project has been completed and it is ready for dissemination in 2010. For more information about the job analysis project please refer to the NCHEC Web site.

NCHEC faces some challenging projects in 2010. The major task will be the launch of the MCHES certification. Projects ahead of us include refinement of policies and various forms needed for implementation of MCHES, item writing for the MCHES examination, adapt the NCHEC database to include MCHES, and implement the Experience Documentation Opportunity (EDO). Of course, communication to health education professionals will be a very important task as we launch the MCHES. We also need to continue to market the CHES and MCHES targeting potential employers.

Additional tasks for 2010 include distribution and dissemination of Job Analysis Data to health education professionals, potential employers, government entities, and other related organizations. We also need to produce and disseminate the revised Framework and Study Guide publications. Finally, NCHEC needs to finalize the five-year strategic plan in early 2010.

We accomplished a lot last year, but we are charged with some major duties this year. With your continued support and participation, and the diligent work of the NCHEC Commissioners and Directors, I have confidence that we will continue to improve the practice of health education and the quality of health education credentialing.

Commitment and Dedication to Enhance the Profession

Linda Lysoby, MS, CHES, CAE, Executive Director, NCHEC



NCHEC Board of Directors has made commitments to major initiatives for the betterment of the health education profession. The completion of the Health Educator Job Analysis (HEJA 2010) has resulted in initiatives to disseminate the information to the health education profession such as presentations at national conferences and webinars. Also an outcome of HEJA, is the need to update the CHES exam to be in alignment with the results and be reflective of health education practice. In addition,

revised Study Guide and Framework publications are underway. These endeavors require major commitments of volunteers, staff and financial resources. Additionally, the initiation of an advanced-level credential, MCHES, required significant tasks to create policies, forms, eligibility guidelines, and continuing education requirements. All of these tasks have required form development, focus groups, pilot testing, presentations as well as the creation of the MCHES examination itself. These efforts have brought together dedicated volunteers, opportunities to engage the profession as well as energizing comments from those who hold the CHES certification and seek more information about MCHES.

In addition to this innovating work, NCHEC has been engaged in discussions regarding the health education profession at the national and international levels. Representatives of NCHEC serve on the National

Accreditation Implementation Task Force, the CNHEO Ethics Task Force, and the CNHEO Marketing the Profession Task Force, all to strengthen and enhance the profession. In addition, NCHEC was involved with the Galway Consensus Conference and will be co-presenting two topics at the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) in Geneva. The interest in the CHES credential internationally is exciting. I had the opportunity to be an invited speaker in Seoul, South Korea at the International Conference of Health Promotion and Education. It is intriguing to realize that South Korea is ready to implement a government endorsed certification of health education specialists.

NCHEC will have 2 presentations at the 20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, July 11-15, 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

- *Developing A Sustainable System Of Quality Assurance For Professional Preparation And Practice Of Health Education Specialists In The U.S*
- *Ensuring A Competent Workforce Through Certification Of Health Education Specialists In Government Endorsed And Voluntary National Organizations*

This is a very busy and historic time at NCHEC and for the health education profession. Please continue to check the Web site for updates.

Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

NCHEC is searching for individuals to fill voluntary positions on our Board of Commissioners and Division Boards. The term of these positions will begin on January 1, 2011. NCHEC seeks individuals from a diversity of practice settings on all boards: school, medical care, business/industry, academia and community. Elections will be held in August 2010. Consider nominating yourself or encourage a peer to take this opportunity.

Board of Commissioners (BOC): *One At-Large Commissioner: 5-year term.* The Board of Commissioners is comprised of 11 individuals who govern and are accountable for all NCHEC activities. More specifically, the BOC defines the mission, participates in strategic planning, approves the annual budget and monitors financial statements, employs and evaluates the Executive Director, oversees and evaluates the credentialing program, establishes policies related to coordination and communication among the three Division Boards, and advocates for credentialing. Significant experience in health education, interest or familiarity with the functioning of non-profit boards, and knowledge and interest in health education credentialing is preferred.

Division Board for Professional Development (DBPD): *Three Directors: 1-year term and two 4-year term.* The DBPD is comprised of seven individuals responsible for oversight of the recertification and annual renewal procedures. More specifically, 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. Interest or

experience in the development or delivery of continuing education programs for health educators is preferred.

Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs): *Two Directors: 5-year terms.* The DBCHEs is comprised of 13 individuals responsible for the credentialing examination. More specifically, the DBCHEs assures a periodic review and evaluation of certification and examination processes; recommends policies and procedures for administering the CHES and the MCHES examinations; participates in item-writing workshops; and ensures that NCHEC's testing meets acceptable standards. Interest or experience in item writing and exam construction is preferred. Five years experience as a health educator with the CHES credential required.

Requirements for all positions include:

- Maintaining CHES certification
- Participating in monthly conference calls
- Attending a once a year face-to-face meeting (room & travel is reimbursed) – typically this meeting spans a weekend (Friday - Sunday). DBCHEs requires two face-to-face meetings per year.
- Reading agendas, minutes and other information to stay informed
- Exercising independent judgment on decisions presented and maintaining confidentiality
- Advocating for credentialing
- Working on specific assignments/projects of the Board

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please contact NCHEC at: 888-624-3248 or nchec@nchec.org or visit the Web site at www.nchec.org.

Nomination deadline is June 30, 2010.

HIGHEST NUMBER OF CECH'S FOR APRIL 2010 RECERTIFICATION

Aaron W. Bohannon MPH, CHES, CTTS: Regional Improvement and Development Manager (West Midlands Stop Smoking Services)



Aaron Bohannon MPH, CHES, CTTS has more than 10 years public health education experience with a focus on tobacco control, developing partnership and public health leadership. Mr. Bohannon earned his BS in Community Health Education in 1999 followed by an MPH in 2002. Aaron became CHES certified April 1999.

As the CHES credential has become increasingly recognized amongst US employers, Aaron continually feels that he made a good professional decision. On first becoming certified, being a CHES did tend to lend weight to his professional credibility and dedication. Not all of his employers quite understood the credential and it created an opportunity to educate them on what CHES is and how it benefited them to employ one. Now it is pretty common to see "CHES desired or required" as part of a job description.

Working in the states, Mr. Bohannon has mentored several student health educators. He has always believed that seeing health education professionals with the credential is quite encouraging as one decides whether to sit for the exam. Working in England he now has the opportunity to enlighten a new audience, especially as the United Kingdom moves forward with its own credentialing process.

In closing, Mr Bohannon offers this advice to beginning health educators, "Strongly consider taking the CHES exam if you are serious about Health Education. It is increasingly recognized as the standard for Health Education professionals."

Please feel free to contact Aaron. Email him at aaron.bohannon@gmail.com or look for him on Facebook and LinkedIn.

NCHEC WELCOMES NEW CHES FALL 2009



The following is a list of those that earned the distinct title of Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) in the October 2009 examination. NCHEC welcomes them to a class of more than 8,500 active CHES. Those who opted not be published are excluded from this list.

Stephanie Achten
Felicia Addo
Brooke Aggarwal
Irisbel Aguayo
Jena Aitchison
Caroline Alexander
Henry Allen
Gwenn Amos
Marie Anders
Renee Angelo
Elizabeth Applegate
Richard Ashburn
Alexandra Ataya
Shelly Atchison
Kristin Atkinson
Justin Aultman
Kia Austin
Donna Ayers
Michele Azada
Lisa Baker
Heather Baldwin
Matthew Baldwin
Alayne Balke
Laura Ballard
Natalya Bannister
Melanie Barthlow
Ashley Beard
Amber Bell
Stephanie Bennion
Rachael Bieltz
Melissa Birt
Caleb Blackwell
Casandra Blakewood
Krystallyn Bland
Janice Boafo
Martha Boisseau
Keosha Bond
Letia Boseman
Brienne Bostian
Callie Boteler
Denise Botello
Andrea Brace
Colleen Brady
Amber Bridges-Arzaga
Kimberly Brodie
Amber Broughton
Linda Brown
Robert Brown
Theresa Brown

Rebecca Buchenic
Kristen Buglione
Jamie Burgess
Sujata Burgess
Laura Camberos
Twanna Campbell
TaTyana Candelo
Sean Canfield
Ryane Carden
Diana Cardona
Heather Carman
Meagan Carr
Alexandria Castells
Laura Catalusci
Kylee Cavanaugh
Christina Chacon
Peggy Chausse
April Childs
Karen Chisley
Marjorie Ciranni
Jade Clardy
Lindsay Clayton
Christine Clinton
Muriel Codd
Joya Coffman
Jade Cognetti
Kate Collier
Jane Colon
Isaac Combs
LeShaundra Cordier
Amanda Cowger
Amanda Cox
Lindsey Creecy
Leila Crouse
Jyl Curry
Bethany Daniel
Amanda Daugherty
Meghan Davies
Amanda Davis
Kristina Davis
Virginia Day
Norilyn De la Pena
Isaac DeLong
Andrea Dean
Ashley Debenian
Mara DeLuca
Megan DeManincor
Nicole DeMarco
Mandi Dettmering
Cristy Dieterich
Lucia Di Gioia
Melissa Dilley
Christine Dipboye

Gerri D'Italia
Burnley Dluhosh
Kafui Doe
Brook Dorff
Susanne Duplantis
Shannon DuPree
Kimetha Elliott
Lauren Elsberry
Kimberly Enoch
Lauren Eveleigh
Ana Fadich
Erin Fawl
Jeanne Fetzer
Cassandra Fisher
Megan Flook
Nakisha Floyd
Lana Fred
Kaitlin Fuchs
Joneyse Gatling
Gloria Gautier
Kelly Gee
Marcia Gillespie
Stacey Glenn
Krystle Godette
Angela Gonzalez
Nancy Gonzalez
Gail Gordon
Melissa Goss
Megan Grabel
Kelli Green
Wanda Green
Megan Griffin
Lauren Gulotta
Melissa Hanes
Lena Hann
Diane Harris
Donna Harris
LaToya Harris
Tasmeeer Hassan
Meghan Hatzenbuehler
Nita Hawk
Crystal Hawkins
Claire Hayes
Michelle Hearn
Vickie Heller
Laura Henry
Sandra Herbst
Isheen Dizon Herrera
Kristen Herrick
Danielle Hibbard
Macsu Hill
Kathleen Hoenig
Lisa Hoffman

Craig Holden
Karen Holm
Brice Holmes
Todd Hoover
Heather Hopkins
Jason Horay
Heather Horn
Brenden Horne
Kathryn Hornung
Amanda Howard
Maureen Howard
Yushan Hsieh
Molly Hubbard
Allison Hubbs
Catherine Huggins
Loretta Humes
Jennifer Hupe
Melanie Hurney
Lindsay Husch
Shawna Ilagan
Theresa Illgen
Marsha Ingle
LaDrea Ingram
Stella Iwuagwu
Osato Iyamu
Kristopher Jackson
Lauren Jacoby
Brooke Johns
Nancy Johnson
Jessica Jones
Nicole Jones
Rhonda Jones
Ian Kahn
Leslie Kannus
Kelly Kestner
Jennifer Kim
Marie Kinsella
Iliana Kiourkas
Rebecca Kleinschmidt
Lorraine Koelbel
Shelly Kowalczyk
Janine Kreiss
Kelsey Kreyling
Traci Lambson
Ashley Lamontagne
Amanda Lange
Willmarie Latorre-Garcia
Tejlah Lee-Cooper
Jessica Leeds
Lindsay Lefenfeld
Kami Little

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PRESS RELEASE

For the last couple of issues of the *CHES Bulletin*, NCHEC has included an update on the Health Educator Job Analysis project (HEJA-2010). NCHEC, the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE), and the American Association for Health Education (AAHE) are pleased to announce the findings of the HEJA. The study results have implications for professional preparation, credentialing, and professional development of all health education specialists regardless of the setting in which they are employed.

HEJA-2010 was undertaken to validate the contemporary practice of entry- and advanced-level health education specialists; to guide the development of the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and the newly announced Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) examinations; to report on changes in health education practice since the last major job analysis study more than five years ago; and to inform professional preparation and continuing education of health education specialists. The Professional Examination Service, a nonprofit credentialing and competency assurance organization, was contracted to complete the 18-month project.

Based on extensive data gathered and analyzed through qualitative and quantitative methods from June 2008 to November 2009, a model of health education practice was updated, refined and validated. The updated model comprises 223 sub-competencies, organized into 39 competencies within seven major Areas of Responsibility. Of the sub-competencies, 61 were validated as advanced-level only.

These findings update the previous Competencies Update Project (CUP), released by NCHEC, AAHE and SOPHE in 2006, which first provided a model of three levels of practice (entry, advanced 1, and advanced 2) with each subsequent level building upon the previous level(s). The latest findings reaffirm seven major areas of responsibility for health education specialists; however, new and/or expanded competencies were identified related to ethics, partnerships, training, consultative relationships, influencing policy, promoting the health education profession, and other areas.

Additionally, HEJA-2010 developed and empirically validated 113 specific types of knowledge items, which are used at some cognitive level by health education specialists. Test specifications for the CHES and MCHES examinations were empirically derived based on the validated survey data. Test specifications are the recommended percentages of the CHES and MCHES examinations that should comprise questions from each Area of Responsibility and for each Competency within each Area of Responsibility. The MCHES examination will be administered for the first time in October 2011.

Additionally, based on HEJA-2010 findings, the NCHEC, AAHE and SOPHE boards issued the following recommendations to the health education profession:

1. Baccalaureate programs in health education should prepare their health education graduates to perform all seven of the health education responsibilities, the 34 Competencies, and the 162 Sub-competencies specifically identified as entry-level in the 2010 hierarchical model.
2. NCHEC should use all seven of the health education responsibilities, the 34 Competencies, and the 162 Sub-competencies specifically identified as entry-level in the 2010 hierarchical model as the basis for revisions to its entry-level CHES examination.
3. Graduate programs in health education should ensure the preparation of health education graduates to perform all seven of the health education responsibilities, the 34 Competencies, and the 223 Sub-competencies (162 entry-level and 61 advanced-level) in the 2010 hierarchical model.
4. NCHEC should use all seven of the health education responsibilities, the 34 Competencies, and the 223 Sub-competencies (162 entry-level and 61 advanced-level) in the 2010 hierarchical model as the basis for the new advanced-level MCHES examination.
5. All seven of the health education responsibilities, the 34 Competencies, and the 223 Sub-competencies (162 entry-level and 61 advanced-level) in the 2010 hierarchical model should serve as the basis for development and continuing education in the health education profession.
6. Accrediting agencies and approval bodies should be encouraged to recognize the HEJA-2010 Areas of Responsibility, Competencies, and Sub-competencies as the basis for quality assurance for health education professional preparation programs.

Findings from the HEJA-2010 report will be available in a document and broadly disseminated to the profession in the second quarter of 2010, entitled *A Competency Based Framework for the Health Education Specialist*.

Further inquiries for information and access to products referenced above should be directed to the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. at 1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303, Whitehall, PA 18052-5642; Phone (888) 624-3248; www.nchec.org

HEALTH EDUCATOR JOB ANALYSIS 2010 —

Updated Role and Responsibilities of Health Education Specialists

A special thanks to the HEJA Contributors Professional Examination Service

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Karen Cottrell, MEd; Lakota Public School System
Gary Gilmore, PhD; University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
James Grizzell, MA, MBA; California Polytechnic
Pamela Hoalt, PhD, LPC; Malone University
Jacqueline Valenzuela, MPH; Los Angeles Department of Public Health
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Dixie L. Dennis, PhD, CHES; Austin Peay State University
Marcy Harrington; Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
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Jennifer Scofield, MA, CHES; Cleveland Department of Public Health
Jody Vogelzang, Ph.D., CHES; Liberty Christian School
Cathy D. Whaley, MA, CHES; School Wellness Project; Ball State University

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Malissa Loiseau	Patti Murphey	Joann Richardson	Katie Techau
Alana Lopez	Timothy Murphy	Marylen Rimando	Kelly Teemant
Michelle Lott	Derrick Murry	Alicia Rodgers	Bethany Tennant
Marge Louima	Deborah Murtagh	Nicole Rodriguez	Janita Terzic
Kathleen Ludwig	April Nakayoshi	Lara Romanowski	Nadia Thind
Alena Mack	Nishita Narula	Brittany Rosen	Kerry Thomson
Crystal Macon	Erika Nassar	Elizabeth Locke	Lynley Thomson Siag
Betty Maffei	Stephanie Navarre	Kim Rutley	Megan Thunder
Amber Mallery-Lewis	Mallory Neal	Mary Grace Sadile	Sharryl Toews
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Leslie Kannus, MPH, CHES
Fall 2009 CHES Exam High Scorer

Leslie Kannus, MPH, CHES: *High Scorer on the October 2009 Exam*

Leslie Kannus has worked in public health in central New York State since 1988, when she began working at the Cortland County *WIC Program*. Since then she worked as a health educator and health program administrator at the Cortland County Health Department, at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County, and at the Central New York Area Health Education Center. Leslie began a new position in November 2009, as a Regional Coordinator for the New York State Department of Health, working on H1N1 flu vaccination efforts. Leslie earned an MPH in May 2009 from UMass Amherst's online MPH program. Her BS is in Health Education from SUNY Cortland. She had thought about pursuing CHES certification for quite some time. Leslie has had many respected colleagues over the years who have the CHES certification. What prompted her to finally become certified was an in-depth discussion of the CHES certification in one of her classes at UMass Amherst. Leslie decided that CHES was important not only as a professional credential but also in promoting the advancement of the profession of health education.

REPORT FROM DIVISION BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALISTS (DBCHEs) — EXAM UPDATE —

Written by Roberta Ogletree, HSD, MEd, CHES

The Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination is administered twice a year in April and October. Administration of the exam is the result of a process that involves the cooperation and coordination of NCHEC staff, the Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs) and the Professional Examination Services (PES). The DBCHEs is comprised of 13 individuals responsible for the credentialing examination. More specifically, the DBCHEs

assures a periodic review and evaluation of certification and examination processes; recommends policies and procedures for administering the CHES and the MCHES examinations; participates in item-writing workshops; and ensures that NCHEC's testing meets acceptable standards. DBCHEs works in conjunction with PES in item development and exam construction activities. PES receives and scores the examinations, then transmits

results to NCHEC and individual scores are sent to candidates. Finally, PES reports the item statistics, reliability, content validation and standard setting activities for the exam.

Results of the 2009 exam administrations have been released and are provided in the table below. Please note that it is typical for more candidates to take the exam in the spring (923) than in the fall (642).

2009 Exam Statistical Information	April 2009 Examination	October 2009 Examination
Number of Items	150	150
Pass Point	94	94
Average Raw Score	105.49	105.95
Standard Deviation	16.13	16.68
Range of Raw Scores	45-140	50-143
Average Percent Score	70.33	70.63
Number of Candidates	923	642
Number of Candidates who passed (pass rate)	704	499
Pass Rate	76.3%	77.7%

DBCHEs Directors are elected to work on specific tasks regarding the CHES and the new MCHES examinations. If you are interested please see page 4 of the bulletin for details.

Employers can locate Certified Health Education Specialist by posting on the NCHEC Web site



To assist employers in their search for CHES, NCHEC posts job announcements on the Web site **free of charge**. The only requirement is that the description must indicate that a *CHES is preferred or required*. Employment listings are accepted by email at nchec@nchec.org.

Required formatting for Job Announcement Submissions: Job announcements must be submitted in a Word document with only text and minimal formatting. Please keep job announcements around 400 words and include job title, job location, job description and company name.

A CHES demonstrates skills to:

- ✓ Assess individual and community needs for health education
- ✓ Plan effective health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- ✓ Implement health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- ✓ Conduct evaluation and research related to health education
- ✓ Administer health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- ✓ Serve as a health education resource person
- ✓ Communicate and advocate for health and health education

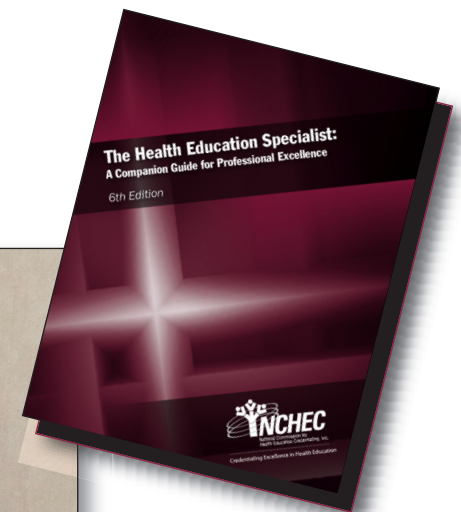
Employers: Do you want even more exposure to Health Education Specialists? HPCareer.net has been a career service resource for professionals and students in the health education field in finding jobs and internships.



CHES LOOKING FOR A JOB???

Check out the NCHEC, HpCareer.net and the CNHEO Web sites for links to open jobs.

THE STUDY GUIDE TASK FORCE, chaired by Kelly Wilson, PhD, CHES is pleased with the work that editor, Leonard Jack, PhD, CHES and co-editor Melissa Grim, PhD, CHES, have accomplished on the Sixth Edition of the Study Guide thus far. The publication entitled, *The Health Education Specialist: A Companion Guide for Professional Excellence*, is in the final stages of editing and will be released later in 2010.



Editors and authors meet in Philadelphia to discuss the sixth edition of the study guide. From L to R: (standing) Leonard Jack, Kelly Wilson, Cam Escoffery, Rebecca Reeve. (seated) Katherine Wilson, Angela Mickalide, Melissa Grim, Linda Lysoby

CHES Recognized by Onlife Health



Written by: Laura Campbell and Brad Lawrence, Onlife Health

Onlife is proud to hire clinical staff with the designation of Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), as this represents a professional commitment to continued education and provides “bragging rights” that our coaches are certified in their field and among the most well prepared and educated in the industry.

With more than 14 years of experience promoting wellness in the workplace and beyond, Nashville-based Onlife Health, Inc., is a national personal health coaching company dedicated to positive living through real engagement. Onlife’s wellness programs combine a dedicated health coach, support communities, on-site events and the latest technologies in an integrated, easy-to-use experience.

The Importance of Hiring Credentialed Health Coaches

Onlife’s health coaches are credentialed and undergo a rigorous health coaching certification process. Onlife strongly believes in the importance of hiring credentialed health coaches and has a three-tiered development path for its clinical staff, with different education and certification requirements at each level. The certification system leads to the highest quality personal health advisors, dedicated coaches, clinical specialists and on-site coaches. Starting with basic required credentials and moving up to more in-depth education and certification, Onlife’s is the most structured and motivating career path for health coaches in the industry.

Onlife supports all current health educators on staff that do not yet have the CHES certification by covering the cost of their exam and providing study materials. Onlife believes that a partnership with NCHCEC raises the industry standard for employee development and clinical excellence and proudly supports the CHES certification.

From physical activity and nutrition to tobacco cessation and stress management, Onlife’s “Positive Living Programs” foster highly personalized, sustained engagement and deliver real results. Onlife helps participants make positive lifestyle choices, encouraging them to embrace “I can do it” moments wherever or whenever they happen. Partnering with Onlife, organizations lower their healthcare costs, improve productivity and increase employee satisfaction.

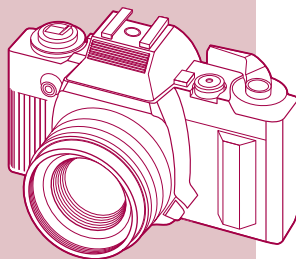
Whether the goal is to fight the battle of the bulge, give up smoking or cook healthier meals for the family, Onlife’s health coaches create a personalized experience that makes it easy for people to achieve the change they want, helping them to live their life “on.”

Formerly known as Gordian Health Solutions, Onlife Health can be found at www.onlifehealth.com.

SAY CHEESE!

Submit a Picture for the NCHCEC Web site or to use in Publications

NCHCEC is looking for pictures of CHES in action to display on our Web site. If you have a picture of yourself on the job whether it be worksite, non-profit, classroom, or governmental, send it to NCHCEC. Please note that a photo release form will need to be completed by all identifiable individuals in the photos. For more information, please email NCHCEC at nchec@nchec.org



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Attention CHES – Does your current employer use CHES as a requisite when hiring? If yes, please contact the NCHEC office. Email Melissa Rehrig, Communications Director at mrehrig@nchec.org.

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