



NCHEC NEWS

CREDENTIALING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH EDUCATION

Volume 24, No. 2

Spring 2013

The Road To Billing Health Education

Written by: Lori Blanton, MS, CHES

There presently exists a tremendous unmet need in health care that could be filled by Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) and Master Certified Health Education Specialists (MCHES). Recent estimates by the CDC project that as many as one in three American adults will have diabetes in 2050. While intensive diabetes self-management education has been shown to be extremely effective in the treatment of diabetes [Duncan, et al. 2011, The Diabetes Educator], the small number of qualified educators available has limited the quality of patient care in recent years. "Demand for diabetes educators is growing: to stay on pace for 2025, the number of diabetes educators would have to grow by 4% per year." [Tucker, Internal Medicine News, 44.14 (Sept. 1, 2011) p 23]

Recognizing a desperate need and a veritable army of qualified professionals ready but ineligible to fill that need, voices in the field of diabetes education have sought in recent years to change the American Diabetes Association (ADA) standards and expand the number of people able to participate in diabetes education. At the 71st annual scientific sessions of the ADA conference, Paulina Duker described critical and overlooked opportunities in patient education, namely the increased numbers of patients who could be served by permitting additional professionals with appropriate training to serve as diabetes educators. Numerous experts, physicians, and advocates in the field have since come out in support of CHES/MCHES becoming eligible to teach diabetes education classes.

As a result of these efforts, in September of 2012, the ADA released the newly revised National Standards for Diabetes Education. Of interest to many CHES/MCHES individuals is that Standard 5, which articulates who is eligible to teach in a diabetes education program, now lists the Health Education profession specifically.

Upon learning of this change, the institution where I work encouraged me to go through our organization's internal credentialing process, which would enable me to officially bill for diabetes education through my name. The Managed Care Board of Directors approved my application after receiving my transcript and CHES certification, and noting my work and teaching experience.

Once the bills were sent, we encountered a road block. The Managed Care division called me and stated the commercial

insurers and the federal agencies were not recognizing CHES/MCHES. This means that the bills would not be paid until the insurers and agencies added CHES/MCHES to their list of eligible providers. Needless to say, this was disappointing but I learned valuable information.

The good news is I am able to bill under my institution's name and the bills are going through without any problems, specifically by billing diabetes education. The guidelines for billing under an employer are different than billing individually. As long as the accredited institution has a recognized ADA program that follows ADA standards, then the bills will go through.

So, CHES/MCHES who are interested in or who are currently working in diabetes education can participate in diabetes self-management education programs and possibly bill through their employers. However, at present, an RN, RD, PharmD or Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) is still required to be part of the program.

Where do we go from here?

- There is a need for more CHES/MCHES diabetes educators. The patients benefit from the quality service they can provide, and the profession benefits from increased exposure.
- There is a need to convince the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) to revise their discipline requirements so that CHES/MCHES are eligible for the CDE certification. While CHES/MCHES are presently allowed to participate in a diabetes education program pursuant to ADA standards, they are currently only able to serve in a supporting role, though they are more than qualified to be primary educators. CDE eligibility will award tremendous value to the CHES/MCHES certification.
- There is a need to educate insurance companies as to the qualification and capabilities of CHES/MCHES professionals. Once they recognize their expertise, their value to employers, and thus their employability, will increase tremendously.

To that end, I encourage all CHES/MCHES to raise awareness about the importance of each of these issues and work together to make these changes a reality.

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Stephen F. Gambescia, PhD, MCHES — Chair of NCHEC's Board of Commissioners



Now and again, a news story brings to our attention the casual regard that some professionals, even successful ones, have for divulging false credentials to their prospective employers and the public. This should be disturbing to us. One common principle in the various professional codes of ethics is that ethical professionals agree not to practice beyond their scope of

practice. This should be a principle taken seriously by those in the health education profession. We hope that all use their Health Education Specialist credential only when *earned* and only when *current*. Claiming false credentials is an affront to the institutions, agencies, boards and other accrediting bodies whose primary purpose is to validate knowledge and competencies. Claiming false credentials slights the individuals who

invested the time and energy, often years of work, and subjected themselves to objective evaluations.

NCHEC representatives continue to make strides and be part of the important dialogue to promote credentialing in other nations and the concept of credentialing for those working internationally. I draw your attention to the December 2012 issue of *Health Education and Behavior*. This theme issue on global progress in core competencies and quality assurance for Health Education and Health Promotion should be a necessary and valuable read. Two articles that well represent current NCHEC thinking are one on the recent “National Health Educator Job Analysis Process and Outcomes” (Doyle, Caro, Lysoby, Auld, Smith, & Muenzen) and “Using an Experience Documentation Opportunity to Certify Advanced-Level Health Education Specialists” (Wilson, Dennis, Gambescia, Chen, & Lysoby). We were pleased to have an opportunity to contribute to this theme issue and are grateful to those who well-represented NCHEC in the discussions. I hope you get a chance to read the works in this *Health Education and Behavior* issue.

A MESSAGE FROM NCHEC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR –

Consider Volunteer Service to NCHEC: Call for 2014 Candidates

Written by: Linda Lysoby, MS, CAE, MCHES



The spirit of commitment and enjoyment of our many volunteers is evident in the work they do and the excellent results they produce. For many years volunteers have dedicated time and expertise to assist NCHEC in its mission and goals. It's because of their volunteerism that NCHEC has grown as the recognized certification organization for the Health Education Profession

and continues to advance the profession. It is that time of year again when NCHEC begins a search for individuals to fill voluntary positions on our Board of Commissioners (BOC) and three Division Boards.

The terms of these positions will begin on January 1, 2014. NCHEC seeks individuals from diverse practice settings on

all boards: school, healthcare, business/industry, academia and community. Elections will be held in August 2013. Consider a nomination of yourself or encourage a colleague to take this opportunity. It is important when considering a board position to realize the time and commitment serving on a volunteer board.

Requirements for all positions include:

- Maintaining CHES/MCHES certification
 - Directors for the Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialist (DBCHEs) must hold active MCHES status
- Participating in monthly conference calls
- Attending one face-to-face meeting per year (all expenses paid by NCHEC) – typically this meeting spans a weekend (Thursday night – Sunday noon). DBCHEs may require two face-to-face meetings per year.
- Reading agendas, minutes and other information to stay informed

continued next page

Consider Volunteer Service *continued*

- Exercising independent judgment on decisions and maintaining confidentiality
- Advocating for credentialing
- Working on specific assignments/projects of the Board
- Supporting the work and mission of NCHC, protecting confidentiality, and avoiding conflict of interest

The open positions for 2014 are as follows:

- One At-large Commissioner for the BOC
- Three Directors for the Division Board for Professional Development (DBPD)
- Two Directors for the Division Board for Professional Preparation and Practice (DBPPP)
- One DBCHEES.
- One Public Member for a three-year appointment to the Board of Commissioners. The public member represents those who would receive health education services, is not certified, and has no direct relationship with those who are certified. Previous board service is an asset.

Please consider one of these exciting opportunities to serve NCHC and the Health Education profession. Visit the NCHC Web site to learn more about the 2014 Call for Candidates and the process for nomination. The deadline for all nominations is June 15, 2013. Please contact Melissa Rehrig at mrehrig@nchc.org with any questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Next Health Education Specialist Job Analysis Is Underway!

The process to update the Health Education Specialist Areas of Responsibility, Competencies and Sub-competencies is underway again. Volunteer health education specialists from a variety of work settings and experience levels will be needed for tasks including one-time survey completion, phone interviews, pilot testing and service on an NCHC Job Analysis Task Force. Please watch for updates and calls for volunteers on

<http://www.nchc.org/credentialing/competency>.

Utah County Fosters a “CHES” Culture!

Written by: Eric S. Edwards, MPA, MCHES

For the past 60 years, the Utah County Health Department (UCHD) has continued to seek the organizational vision of sustaining “Healthy People in Healthy Communities” by offering a wide range of preventive services designed to promote healthy behavior and to protect the public and their environment. Much of the success of these programs can be attributed to the many Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) employed at UCHD.



Over ten years ago, Utah County established a hiring policy that health education applicants “must be eligible to become a Certified Health Education Specialist.” In 2008, this policy was strengthened for the Health Educator II position, requiring that “applicants selected after June 14, 2008 must possess, and thereafter maintain, certification as a Certified Health Education Specialist.” Individuals seeking to fill or be promoted to the Health Promotion Program Manager position “must obtain, and thereafter maintain, certification as a Certified Health Education Specialist during the probationary period for new hires or during the trial period for promoted county employees.”

By hiring and maintaining CHES-certified staff, Utah County successfully demonstrates the competency of our workforce and assures that all Health Education Specialists stay abreast of the most current innovative strategies relative to the core

Competencies of a CHES. Our passionate team of three MCHES staff and ten CHES staff serve in a variety of areas, including tobacco prevention and control, injury prevention, chronic disease self-management, environmental health promotion, and quality improvement.

Supportive administrators help strengthen our CHES culture by encouraging staff to become certified and maintain their certification. As budgets allow, employees receive paid time to attend workshops, conferences and trainings necessary to obtain continuing education credits. Staff receive many of these credits in an efficient and cost-effective way through the Health Education Association of Utah, which serves as an NCHC Designated Provider.

With two local universities in Utah County, we have found it worthwhile to hold a free CHES exam study group prior to each exam administration. Our certified staff facilitate the study groups and provide support to both students and any professionals scheduled to take the exam. This synergistic effort helps promote a growing workforce of skilled CHES both inside and outside our agency.

The Utah County Health Department has found the CHES/MCHES certification to be one of the most important factors in delivering health promotion programs that foster “Healthy People in Healthy Communities.”



*Beth Chaney (NCHCEC's Immediate Past Chair) & Melissa Rehrig (NCHCEC staff) presented at the **Korean CHESA International Symposium** on Friday December 21, 2012 at Sahmyook University in Seoul, South Korea. In 2010, the South Korean government endorsed a certification examination, the Korean Certified Health Education Specialist examination. NCHCEC was invited by Dr. Sungsoo Chun to give an update on the US certification. Specifically, they presented information on MCHES, NCCA accreditation, the Health Educator Job Analysis and marketing efforts in the US. They included information on where CHES/MCHES work in the US and some testimonials from employers that are hiring CHES.*

HB 1098: On the Road to Licensure of CHES in the Aloha State

Written by: Mark Tomita, PhD, RN, MCHES; and Christian T. Gloria, MA, CHES

On January 24, 2013, a bill (HB 1098) was introduced through Hawaii State Rep. Ryan Yamane (D) (H District 37 Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele), requiring the Hawaii State Auditor to conduct a sunrise analysis of the regulation of CHES. Licensing of health professionals is a two-legislative session process. This year, HB 1098 requires the sunrise analysis. If the bill becomes a law in May 2013, and the State Auditor finds that CHES should be regulated through licensure, then a second bill must be introduced in January 2014 to delineate the CHES/MCHES scope of practice and to set up a board to regulate the profession.

As of February 5, 2013, HB 1098 has cleared the Hawaii House Health (HLT) Committee without amendments or objections. The bill has been referred to the Hawaii House Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC) Committee for review. If the bill clears the CPC, HB 1098 will go to the House floor for a vote on March 1, 2013. To track HB 1098 progress, please go to: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1098&year=2013 or <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/login/login.aspx> and type in the keywords in the Bill Status/Measure State box, "HB 1098."

NCHEC WELCOMES NEW CHES – FALL 2012

The following is a list of those who earned the distinct title of Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) in the October 2012 examination. NCHEC welcomes them to a class of more than 9500 active CHES.

Those who opted not to be published are excluded from the list.

Omar I Abdul-Malik	Albert Botchway	Bridget A Cross	Kimberly E Feiler
Modupe F Adewuyi	Deanna Bourgeault	Karen A Croteau	Aubrey L Feldman
April O Agboola	Loni J Bowen	Richard J Curley	Allison H Fels
Elda A Agenor	Stephanie S Bowers	Candace A Da Silva	Dian Fitzpatrick
Stacey Aguiar	Catherine Boyd	Denise R Dale	Katherine P Flanagan
Sarah L Albertson	Elizabeth L Bozard	Tiffany J Dallenbach	Lauren B Fleming
Rosalyn C Albritton	Michael T Bramlish	Shenay Damirgi	Rachel A Florence
Kaitlyn M Allen	Janeth Bravo	Kelly E Darbonne	Kylie L Forbes
Sasha Almasian	Briana E Brewer	Emily F Darrell	Stephanie M Franklin
Elizabeth Alvarez	Andrea Bringardner	Ashley Davies	Padra R Franks
Sara M Anderson	Brittney Brooks	Julia S Davies	Angela Freitas
Lara S Antonenko	Tiffani Brown	Sonja A Davis	Tina T Fung
Sernarra C Archie	Ashley-Nicole Browning	Isabel S De la Cruz	Andrea Galloway
Adriana C Ardy	Lauren A Brunette	Teresa E DeSantis	Marissa L Garofano
Johanna Y Armstrong	Kristen D Budd	Amanda M DeSouza	Jaime Gaudor
Tina Arriazola	Mark M Buley	Laura DeTar	Marjorie F Goldstein
Sarah R Arthur	Erynn M Burks	Brittany N Devereaux	Astrid G Gonzalez-Pagan
Benjamin J Ashraf	Molly Burleson	Katherine L DeVincentis	Allyson Gordon
Linda Assante	April C Burton	Julia D Dickman	Stephanie Graham
Denise N Attard Sacco	Heather E Busch	Serra R Dittel-Payne	Katherine M Greco
Natasha D Austin	Cassidy Butler	Shontelle L Dixon	Felicia N Green
Brian P Aylward	Laura E Butler	Colin Dobbins	Kellyann L Greene
Adrienne N Bailey	Steven A Buyers	Regina L Dobbs	Lori Grindstaff
Brett Baisch	Alice S Byrd	Megan M Dollar	Caroline Gugino
Melissa Baiyewu	Anne M Cabell	Brittany E Dong	Jana L Gurkin
Veronda S Baker	Erica A Cage	Stephanie C Donolli	Yadira M Gutierrez
Kimberly Bardell	Charlotte N Campbell	Caleigh G Douglass	Jennifer M Hall
Robert P Barker	Katherine Campbell	Bunny J Dugo	Triniti N Halverson
Justin R Batton	Anna L Carpenter	Amanda L Dumbacher	Vanetta M Hamilton Conn
Kalani M Bauer	Karte M Carson	Lisa M Dworak	Maria R Hamm
Allison Bayley	Cen Chen	Mary R Eckhardt	Jake Hanson
Stacey C Becker	Sherry S Chen	Mary E Edwards	Uma S Hanubal
Carlos A Bello	Brittany Chester	Stacy Effinger	Lynnetta S Harley
Christy M Belzer	Kacy Chrestman	Lesley S Eicher	Angela R Harmison
Mari E Benavidez	Allen T Christensen	Ashley D Eide	Praveena P Harnarine
Mackenzie L Bencze	Theresa R Chu	Sigridur T Eidsdottir	Kimberly H Harris
Jennifer L Bentley	Carlee Church	Mona Elgowainy	Khadija Hasan
Stephanie R Bergt	Kathleen A Clemente	Sarah-Lee Emanuel	Madeline E Hatley
Sarah R Berkley	Stacy A Clifford	Ashleigh R Enriquez	Emily R Hegg
Victoria E Bethay	Angelia D Clinton	Charlene G Escobar	Jennifer L Henderson
Katie Beutler	Lisa C Clough	Queenmoore C Esotu	Joyleen E Hernandez Rodriguez
Laura Beyer	Lauren A Cockerham-Colas	Genevieve G Estanislau	Susan M Herrington
Yekatit Bezooayehu	Ashley N Collier	Patricia Estrada	Sumer R Higgins
Alka Bhattarai	Natalie N Cooley	Holly M Evans	Leslie E Hine
Radhika Bhavsar	Kira M Cooper	Ashley Ewens	Sarah M Hinson
Crystal L Bigley	Chelsea Corey	Chidinma I Eze	Kim-Trang Hoang
Cortney Boes	Emily L Craven	Khady Fall	Elena Hoepfner
Thomas D Boettcher	Brittney L Criswell	Carmen E Faust	Daniel Hoffman-Zinnel

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NCHEC WELCOMES NEW CHES – FALL 2012

Jessica Holzer	Ankeeta Koirala	Julia V McNeil	Alana Pfeffinger
Monique S House	Chad Koller	Janice N McReynolds	Jinu Philip
Hanna Hubbs	Arielle T Kowenski	Taylor R McWilliams	Lyanna Pillazar
Amy C Huff	Shelly M Krajny	Jose L Medina	Susan E Pinkowski
Erica B Hughes	Rhoda M Kroeker	Vanessa Mehlman	Stephanie E Plante Burks
Connie L Hull	Chelsey M Lacks	Sandeep Mellacheruvu	Janet L Povero
Marisa Hutchinson	Jamie E LaFata	Katherine H Melton	Katie M Powell
Jessica R Hyde	Chiara Landsman	Frank Mendes Jr.	Yernia Preer
Adaeze Ibe	Justine Lange	Nicole L Miller	Heather L Preston-Weeks
Zipporah M Inniss-Richter	Jacqueline M Lara	Paige E Miller	Kaitlyn G Prince
Danielle E Jacobs-Chan	Elena L Larson	Jasmine A Mines	Ashley S Pritts
Morgan Jade	Halania Laurimore	Dean T Misener	Autumn M Proctor
Lisa Jaquez	Sekinat A Lawal	Tatiana Molinar	LeaVonne Pulley
Tia D Jeffery	Seang Y Lee	Amelia B Morehead	Kaila B Quinn
Carolyn O Jillson	Vicki L Lee	Francisco Moreno	Catherine L Ramstetter
Megan E John	Stephanie M Lehr	Duston D Morris	Cherelle L Rangel
Alison N Johnson	Daniel J Lennon	Mapela Y Motshabi-Custodio	Allison B Rapp
Amanda S Johnson	Anita A Li	Kari L Moya	Carly J Reid
Cambree Johnson	Preston S Lindhardt	Megan Muehlenbruch	Katherine Reinecke
Chamille T Johnson	Lorraine Little	Christine Muscolo	Jessica A Retuerto
Grace E Johnson	Lanxiazi Liu	Noreen Myers-Wright	Archana U Revankar
Lindsey Johnson	Victoria S Locklear	Harmony L Neff	Laurie N Reynolds
Meredith E Johnson-White	Tareon J Lofton	Bonnie M Nelson	Kara B Rhode
Katherine Johnston	Lerliche F Louis	Heba M Nessim	Jacob E Rich
Katherine M Jones	Christina M Lockett	Farrah R Nicholson	Teresa J Riesberg
Terri L Jordan	Jennifer M Ludwin	Andrea Notch	Erin M Rios
Jesse L Joseph	Caitlin C Lugo	Richard Nti	Yanneth Rivera
Katie E Jourdan	Laura E Lyons	Safiya Nuur	Katherine M Robb
Kimberly A Justice	Heather R MacDavid	Courtney A Nye	Kimberly Roberts
Mary A Justis	Charlotte L MacMillan	Andromeda J Oatis	Traci S Roberts
Rozann Juth	Keisha M Macon	Olawunmi M Obisesan	Sarah Robinson
Mei Kameda	Brian K Manning	Luna V Ocegueda	Summer Y Robinson
Joelle L Kantor	Soheila Marandi	Jennifer C ODonnell	Elizabeth I Rolon
Haimanot K Kassahun	Sarah Marion	Charlotte L Oduro	Elaine R Sabatino
Erin M Kaufmann	Eresha Markalanda	Jessie E Ogle	Esvanhnelly Salas
Brittney Keller	Nora C Martin	Heather L O'Gorman	Joelle Salmon
Carol M Kelly	Sarah E Massuch	Thomas A Openchowski	Emily J Samuel
Crystal D Kelly	Ellen M Maxfield	Nosayaba Osazuwa-Peters	Paula T Samuelsen
Molly M Kengor	Allison E McBee	Toyese J Oyeyemi	BillieJo Sanders
Jessica A Kessinger	Stephanie M McBride	Joan D Padilla	Albert J Sandoval
Stephanie R Keteyian	Angela D McClanahan	Jennifer M Park	Christina M Sands
Jin Kim	Ashley N McDonald	Jessica N Park	Eleanor P Sarkodie
Deanna M Kinslow	Bayley M McDonough	Candace Parr	Neela Satyanarayan
Carley D Kirk	Jasmine B McDowell	Minda Parsons	Shauna M Sauer
Gabrielle P Kirk	Amber M McGinty	Rinku Patel	William A Saultes Jr
Maureen Kiser	Hanna M McHugh	Jessica M Paul	Anna K Savage
Melissa N Kives	Jennifer J McKeon	Colleen A Payton	Ankita Saxena
Regina J Knox	Mary Lynn McKiernan	Lindsey M Peddicord	Lindsay J Scheid
Charlotte B Koch	Jennifer L McLean	Basilisa Perkins	Beth A Schmidt
Heather C Koeppe	Christine L McMahan	Melanie K Perry	Olivia A Schornheuser
Kari M Koerner	Janice McNeil	Courtney L Peterson	

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NCHEC WELCOMES NEW CHES – FALL 2012

Elin Schroeder
Sarah R Schwab
Andrea C Schwab-Galindo
Masanga Sebuharara
Jennifer A Seiler
Robin J Senior
Veeral Shah
Shanna R Sharber
Monique S Shaw
Sarah Shelnutt
Cynthia "Sindi" Sheth
Amanda Shipp
Miranda N Shore
Alison C Siderko
Sophia Y Simmons
Malerie F Simons
Deomattie P Singh-Bahadur
Kaitlyn Sjolseth
Kira M Slagle
Ashley H Smith
Brittany R Smith
Claris E Smith
Colene M Smith
Holly A Smith
Laquita C Smith
Lucy R Smith
Telesha M Smith
Joanna Spencer

Patrice Spencer
Anna C Stahl
Jessica Steele
Jessie R Stensgar
Shane T Stephens
Carly A Stevens
Genia V Stevenson
Jennifer M Stolka
Nicole Stowers
Lindsay Strack
Jenna Strahm
Clare Sullivan
Shana M Summerhays Mullan
Brittany R Summerlin
Karen M Summers
Erika Surbaugh
Christopher T Tang
Amber L Taylor
Susan Taylor
Jessica G Teel
Sara L Thibodeaux
Victoria A Thompson
Amanda M Timmers
Stacey E Todd
Alissa B Travis
Kirsten B Tucker
Melanie T Tucker

Angela L Turner
Tanesha G Tutt
Imeh M Udoessien
Susan I Ullrich
Rajiv R Ulpe
Lilian Uwuseba
Mariah K Vacha
Cameron S Valentine
Jessa J Van Every
Susanna M Van Order-Barblan
Mary E VanBeekum
Jamianne E Verkade
Bertha Villa
Shellane Daisy C Villarin
Elizabeth W Wachira
Jena Wagner
Jennifer I Walker
Lana M Warner
Carol A Watkins
Jerusha U Weaver
Lisa Wehr
Ruth Weil
Margaret J Weixelman
Sarah A Weller
Brittany Wells
Darcy S West
Jill L Wheeler

JoAnn P Whetsell
Emily Whitney
Alisha Williams
Hannah R Williams
Jasmine S Williams
Justin A Williams
Meghan D Williams
Natalie E Williams
Thalia A Williams
Donald W Williams-Gutierrez
Monica Williamson Nenad
Emily R Wilson
Jamie G Wilson
Lauren P Wilson
Melissa A Wilson
Elizabeth A Wong
Charlie E Wood
Ashleigh Woodruff
Lauren N Woodward
Amanda J Woolard
Shana M Wright
Yiping Yang
Melina H Yepiz
Romina G Yepiz
Morgan M Young
Dina Zipkin
Jennifer R Zweifel



High Scorer on the October 2012 CHES Exam Jenna Strahm, CHES

Jenna Strahm lived most of her life overseas, in both Indonesia and Brazil. She developed an interest in health education through participating in community work all over the globe. Jenna received her bachelor's degree in Health Science from Ball State University, with a minor in Interpersonal Relations including a focus in Counseling Psychology. During her time at Ball State, she worked as a tutor and supplemental instructor, as well as serving as the president of the Alpha Chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma. In 2012 she completed her internship at the Kathryn Weil Center for Education at Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health in Lafayette, Indiana. Jenna now works at the Purdue University School of Nursing as the Coordinator for the Tobacco Free Partnership of Tippecanoe County.

"I chose to take the CHES exam mostly because of the encouragement from my professors at Ball State. Without very much experience in the field, having my CHES certification gives me more credibility. Having that credibility is very important for my work in tobacco prevention and cessation in the community."

NCHEC WELCOMES NEW MCHES – FALL 2012

The following is a list of those who earned the distinct title of Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) in the October 2012 examination. NCHEC welcomes them to a class of more than 950 active MCHES. Those who opted not to be published are excluded from the list.

Erica S Anderson
Gwendolynn A Ashcom
Anita Balan
Alexis A Blavos
Angie B Byrne
Sherry L Carlson
Toni L Carpenter
Anne E Crowther
Eric S Davidson

Tracey L Davis
Amanda DeSplinter
Beau P Dooley
Lea Dooley
Ashlee E Dozier
Patricia K Gremillion-Burdge
Regan Johnson
Amar S Kanekar
Jeanette L Kowalik

Patricia M Lamberson
Kimberly A Lewis
Jacquelyn D McDonald
Jamie S McDonald
Lourdes Mercado Belardo
Rebecca C Michelsen
Karin Omark
Tanya M Purdy

Keely S Rees
Brenda Robinson
Lisa M Shook
Michele A Smith
Cherie L Spencer
Ming Sun
Naa-Solo Tettey
Keliane M Totten

HIGH SCORERS ON THE OCTOBER 2012 MCHES EXAM

Eric S. Davidson, PhD, MCHES



Eric S. Davidson, Ph.D., currently serves as the Associate Director for the Eastern Illinois University Health Service, the Director for the Illinois Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Violence Prevention, and serves as the Eastern Illinois University Vice-President of Student Affairs in assessment, evaluation, and research matters. Dr. Davidson earned his Doctorate of Philosophy in Education-Health Education from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale in 2012.

“I decided to sit for the MCHES exam for many reasons. About 10 years ago, I submitted

my prescreen application for the CHES certification. Although I had been involved in health education and promotion activities since high school, I had selected other academic disciplines, which prevented me from earning a formal health education degree. At that time, I was alphabet soup happy, and really wanted as many credentials as I could acquire. Many of my motives for pursuing the CHES credential were selfish, and related to higher salary, faster advancement and more responsibilities, prestige, etc.”

“In 2005, I initiated the Ph.D. program at SIUC, with one of my personal objectives being to sit for the CHES exam once I acquired enough hours. As I swam deeper and deeper into my doctoral program, I began to understand why my previous CHES exam applications had been rejected. I began to understand more fully the similarities and differences between the discipline of health education and other social service and helping professions. I began to see how different the health education skills and competencies were from my other academic backgrounds of psychology, counseling, and speech communications. As I learned more about the formalities of health education, I knew that I wanted something to demonstrate these competencies, and do my best to represent our discipline. Having the MCHES designation is not only a privilege but a responsibility. I am hopeful that I can serve as a role model, teacher, and mentor to many others who engage in health education practice, and that the MCHES designation reinforces my ability to effectively do so.”

Karin Omark, MPH, EdM, MCHES



As a Senior Health Promotion Specialist for the California Diabetes Program, Karin helps health care professionals to provide evidence-based diabetes management and prevention services. She also serves as the program’s evaluation lead, assisting colleagues to develop and implement evaluation plans for their public health interventions. Additionally, Karin conducts strategic planning and grant writing for

the diabetes program, facilitating discussions among program staff and partners about the priorities of the program and ways to achieve its goals. Karin earned her bachelor’s degrees in Ethnic Studies and Spanish from UC Berkeley, a master’s degree in Education from Harvard University, and a master’s degree in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health Sciences from UCLA. For the last sixteen years, she has worked in public health and social service organizations addressing diverse issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, and chronic disease.

Reason for seeking MCHES

“Now that I’ve been out of my MPH program for a few years, I can better see the merits of a credentialing process that both recognizes professional achievement and encourages ongoing professional development. The MCHES credential signals to my employer and colleagues that I believe in keeping my health promotion and planning skills current. The MCHES credential also brings me into a community of skilled health educators who are similarly committed to realizing health equity and fostering healthy communities using the best science available to us.”



SOPHE Launches New eLearning Portal, CORE

Written by: Celena T. NuQuay, MA, CAE

The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) recently launched a new eLearning portal, the Center for Online Resources & Education (CORE), dedicated to providing quality eLearning opportunities and continuing education credits to CHES/MCHES.

CORE serves as your one-stop portal for 24-7 access to the latest topics in the field presented by the experts, without incurring the cost of travel. CORE features more than 150 archived webinars, conference recordings, journal self-study articles, fact sheets, and tool kits, in addition to SOPHE's first online course, Health Promotion Programs: From Theory to Practice, which comprises five modules based on chapters from the textbook of the same title.

Taking advantage of CORE resources is an excellent way to enrich your knowledge and skills. CORE offers exciting content presented by leaders in current topics such as diabetes prevention and management, health equity, leadership development, coalition building, career development, systems science, manuscript publication, social media, evaluation, advocacy, health literacy and school health.

Learners may use CORE to access both free and for-fee content, and to process continuing education credits and print their certificates. To start taking advantage of all that CORE has to offer, visit www.sophe.org/education.cfm. Non-members may create a free CORE account, and members may login with their current account information.

Conference Schedule

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

Organization	Details	Dates	Location
64th Annual Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)	www.sophe.org	April 17-19, 2013	Orlando, Florida
AAHE/AAHPERD 129th National Convention and Exposition	www.aahperd.org/convention	April 23-27, 2013	Charlotte, North Carolina
American College Health Association (ACHA)	www.acha.org	May 28-June 1, 2013	Boston, Massachusetts
86th Annual American School Health Assoc. (ASHA)	www.ashaweb.org	October 9-12, 2013	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
APHA 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition	www.apha.org/meetings	November 2-6, 2013	Boston, Massachusetts

Las Vegas Networking Event

Written by Kristy Rivera, CHES

The idea of a Las Vegas CHES group occurred to me when I was studying for the April 2011 exam. I asked several of my former professors if they knew anyone who was also studying and interested in forming a study group. I was dismayed when I couldn't find anyone locally. I was eager to start connecting with fellow CHES in my area. Then the fall 2012 *NCHEC News* bulletin arrived in my mail with the headline "Plan a Networking Event in Your Area!" It was perfect timing.

A quick Google search showed there was no local group. So I joined LinkedIn and posted a message on the Official CHES/MCHES page. I immediately got a response from Lisa Coker who wanted to help co-plan an event. We met for a planning session and she introduced me to Starr Wharton, Nevada's only MCHES. I was thrilled! We hadn't even had an event yet and I had already met two people.

Our event was held during happy hour and we had four people attend. Although it's not a lot, it is a start. We also had several people express interest in the group but were not available the night of the event. We had a frank discussion about public health in Nevada and opportunities for improvement. I am glad to say that one attendee has a job lead thanks to the event. The group has plans to meet quarterly. Our goal is to provide information about job openings and CECH events, build opportunities for collaboration, create awareness of the CHES/MCHES certification especially among local employers, and network opportunities. And while we're still in the planning stages, I am confident that we will strengthen the CHES/MCHES presence in Las Vegas!

Tell a colleague or student that the **2013 CHES AND MCHES EXAM DATES** are **April 27th** and **October 19th**

APRIL 2013						
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 2013						
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	31		

For more information, visit www.nchec.org or contact the Exam Coordinator at 888-624-3248, ext 12.



NCHEC NEWS

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