



NCHEC NEWS

CREDENTIALING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH EDUCATION

Volume 26, No. 2

Spring 2015

Under Construction: The New NCHEC Website Launch

Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

Search

Go



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

[About](#) [Contact Us](#) [FAQs](#) [Job Postings](#) [News](#) [Login](#)

[Health Education Credentialing](#) [Exams](#) [Continuing Education](#) [Renewal & Recertification](#) [Providers](#)



Health Education Credentialing

Change is in the air this spring! We are excited to announce our plans to launch a revitalized website in April of 2015, a process that has been several months in the making here at NCHEC. A streamlined and updated user experience while visiting nchech.org is the primary goal of our redesign.

New features will include easy uploading of transcripts and advisor letters while completing an exam application, the ability to apply for a Prescreen review online, the paperless submission of Category II credits, Designated Provider online report and much more. Look for smooth navigation and an intuitive design while browsing for health education information during your next visit.

In conjunction with the website launch, the NCHEC database system is also in the process of a major reconstruction. We are very excited here at headquarters for our own user experience to be modernized as well! The new database will provide increased efficiency of workflow, allowing us to be of better service to the health education community. You will notice the change when you log into your CHES/MCHES account in April 2015.

One word of caution: during the change-over, our database and website may be down for a few days, and you may experience difficulty if you attempt to login to your CHES/MCHES account or order publications. This is only temporary, and we will be returning better able to serve you in 2015 and beyond!

inside this issue



- 2-3 Leadership News
- 3 Statement for RCHES/RMCHES
- 4 NCHEC Announces Revised Publications

- 5 Call for Candidates
- 6 Welcome New CHES

- 8 Welcome New MCHES CHES/MCHES High Scorer's
- 9 CHES/MCHES Item Writing



It's Good Business

Dixie Dennis, PhD, MCHES – 2015 NCHEC Board of Commissioners Chair



With the start of this year, many of you made personal New Year's Resolutions. NCHEC has made our resolutions, too, but they have emerged in the form of fresh goals in our strategic plan. Increasing recognition of the value of our CHES and MCHES certifications is one of these goals. The expected growth rate of health education specialist occupations is nearly 22% by the year 2022, which is a faster growth rate than the 11% national average for all other occupations (Bureau

of Labor Statistics, 2014; Bortz, 2015). Bortz, a writer for Time, explained that health improvements made by employed health education specialists can curb insurance for employers, with an added boost to employees' job satisfaction. This serves to help employers retain their talented workforce. Moreover, Bortz asserted that there is a demand for the exemplary skill sets of health education specialists, which NCHEC provides by certifying qualified health education specialists. Bortz placed the "health and wellness educator" as one of five top jobs that many people should strive to enter in the coming years.

With approximately 60,000 health education specialists currently working in the United States, NCHEC provides the credentialing that can ensure employers the workforce competency they desire. Our certificants, after passing a rigorous exam, whether they are immediately out of college (CHES) or have been in the workforce for some time (MCHES), have been proven proficient to teach people about healthy habits and behaviors that will improve quality of life and help mitigate rising healthcare costs.

NCHEC (2015) already has received many comments from employers about the value they place on hiring credentialed health education specialists. Paraphrased comments from employers include the following:

- We have a standard to employ health education specialists because they possess the knowledge, skills, commitment, and passion to provide comprehensive wellness solutions to our employees.
- We give preference to credentialed people because it demonstrates to our partners that these health education specialists have a personal commitment to advance the health and well-being of others.
- Credentialed health education specialists have the skill set for planning, implementing, and evaluating public health programs.

continued next page

NCHEC Board of Commissioners' Statement for RCHES/RMCHES

To uphold national and international standards, the NCHEC Board of Commissioners has changed the policy regarding retired CHES and MCHES. To be in compliance with certification standards, all certified individuals must uphold to the current certification scheme requirements, which includes upholding to the recertification requirements (75 continuing education contact hours in 5 years). To retain the retired option, NCHEC added a category, the Retired Certified Health Education Specialist (RCHES) or the Retired Master Certified Health Education Specialist (RMCHES) to designate those in retired status. Neither of these designations require continuing education credits. Beginning in 2015, certified individuals who have requested the retired status will use the RCHES/RMCHES designation rather than the CHES (Ret) designation.

RCHES/RMCHES designation is intended to recognize a health education specialist's years of service to the profession and acknowledge his/her dedication to having been certified. As a result, NCHEC will provide RCHES/RMCHES individuals with a special *Certificate of Service*.

Continued Benefits of RCHES/RMCHES

- ✓ The use of RCHES/RMCHES after an individual's name
- ✓ Issues of NCHEC News publications and other information from NCHEC regarding the evolving profession of health education
- ✓ The ability to vote in NCHEC's annual leadership election
- ✓ Maintaining certification without obtaining 75 continuing education contact hours that non-retired certificated persons must obtain
- ✓ A reduced annual renewal fee (\$15)

Changes from CHES (ret.) to RCHES/RMCHES

- ✓ Rather than CHES (ret.), a retired individual will use the RCHES/RMCHES designation after his/her name
- ✓ An RCHES/RMCHES ID card will be issued annually
- ✓ The use of the CHES or MCHES acronym or logo with an individual's name is not permitted

Approved: NCHEC Board of Commissioners, January 26, 2015

Chair – Dixie Dennis, PhD, MCHES

Contact: NCHEC Executive Director –

Linda Lysoby, MS, CAE, MCHES (888-624-3248)

Distinguishing the Unique Profession of Health Education

Written by: NCHEC Executive Director, Linda Lysoby, MS, MCHES, CAE



Over the years, health education specialists have sometimes struggled to establish their identity within the work place. It is encouraging to see some movement in the recognition of health educators and the critical role they play in improving our nation's health. I have noticed some positive movement in establishing the identity of health education specialists.

As mentioned in the NCHEC chair's article, one such example is the mention of health and wellness educators in Time Magazine. Check out the article, *The 5 Best Jobs You've Never Heard Of* which can be found at <http://time.com/money/3661833/new-job-titles-2015/>. The article is referencing jobs with a high demand for unique talents and skill sets and a bunch of new jobs you may not even know existed. The article points to the need for a four-year degree, the health education specialist certifications and references the NCHEC website information on requirements and eligibility.

An important project to distinguish the unique skills and knowledge is the recently completed Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis (HESPA). This study validated the Seven Areas of Responsibility, 36 Competencies and 258 Sub-competencies that are essential to the practice of health education across the country, in all work settings and populations. Publications containing the information from the study will be available by the middle of this year. Please see the related article on page 4 in this newsletter. The results of the HESPA can be used to educate employers, other professionals, policy makers and the public about the unique skills and knowledge possessed by health education specialists. I would invite all certified individuals to look at the results of HESPA and consider ways to educate others about the unique skills sets of health education specialist in promoting the health of individuals, groups and communities.

There are some interesting jobs posted on the NCHEC website at <http://www.nchec.org/news/docs/jobs.htm>. The City of Hope in Duarte, CA posted a position for a Senior Health Education Specialist to enhance patient and family education services across the continuum of care for specific patient populations and for City of Hope patients and caregivers as a whole by providing leadership, technical support and consultation.

The Marchfield Clinic in Wisconsin posted a position for Health Educator in the area of AODA to assist in promoting substance abuse prevention policies, programs and practices that assist communities in reducing substance abuse, and to work closely with a network of over 50 substance abuse coalitions.

University of Dayton in Ohio listed a position of Coordinator of Health Education & Wellness Promotion with the CHES credential preferred. This position is responsible for the planning and implementation of wellness programs and health education services, primarily targeted to students with some programming aimed at educating faculty and staff about student health issues.

And finally, I have noticed an increased recognition of health education within the military. The American Legion is hosting a meeting regarding employment of veterans returning to the workforce. I am looking forward to participating in the dialogue at an April meeting in Washington, DC to discuss ways to ensure certifications leading to employment are available for those in military service and veterans. I am happy to report that the CHES/MCHES certifications examinations qualify for reimbursement under benefits for veterans and their spouse.

I ask all certified individuals to continue to help us to spread the word and promote the unique skills and knowledge of health education specialists to improve health. As the awareness of the importance of health education/promotion continues to spread, NCHEC continues to be committed to credentialing the workforce according to recognized national standards.

It's Good Business *continued from page 2*

With the expected growth in the number of health education specialists, it is imperative that we all support NCHEC's resolution to increase recognition of the value of the CHES and MCHES certifications. This distinguished recognition helps both employers and employees, as well as those of us who are passionate about the well-being of others as we proudly display our CHES/MCHES designation. NCHEC fully intends to keep this New Year's Resolution: It's good business!

Bortz, D. (January 27, 2015). The 5 best jobs you've never heard of. *Time Magazine*. Retrieved February 03, 2015 from <http://time.com/money/3661833/new-job-skills-2015/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (2014). Health educators and community health workers. *Occupational outlook handbook, 2014-2015 edition*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved February 03, 2015 from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm> National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc., (NCHEC). (2015). Why employ a CHES/MCHES health education specialist? It's good business. Author.

NCHEC Announces Two Revised Publications Based on the HESPA Study

A Competency Based Framework for Health Education Specialists – 2015 is jointly copyrighted by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc., (NCHEC) and the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). The framework is based on the Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis (HESPA) 2015, an 18-month project to update, refine and validate the model of health education practice.

Validated from the HESPA study are the Seven Areas of Responsibility, 36 Competencies, and 258 Sub-competencies. Of the Sub-competencies, 141 were identified as entry-level practice, 76 were advanced 1-level practice, and 41 were advanced 2-level practice. In addition, 131 knowledge items were validated.

The HESPA 2015 study expanded upon the two previous studies the Health Education Specialist Job Analysis (HEJA) and the Competency Update Project (CUP). The HESPA study led to an adjustment to the health education model to include the term “health promotion.” The rationale for the terminology change to “health education/health promotion” was because it adds clarity to the scope

of the health education specialist’s role both within and external to the profession and would more comprehensively describe the profession. This decision was supported by 75 % of the 59 respondents to a survey designed to measure the support for this change.

The resultant revised Areas of Responsibility, Competencies, and Sub-competencies identified in the HESPA project have been incorporated into the seventh edition of *Health Education Specialist: A Companion Guide for Professional Excellence*. This publication includes both entry and advanced-level Competencies and Sub-competencies and for the first time the MCHES practice questions. The publication will serve as a study tool for health education specialists preparing for the April 2016 MCHES and October 2016 CHES examinations. Both publications will be in print and available for purchase in June 2015.

NCHEC would like to extend sincere gratitude to the following editors, co-editors, contributing authors, reviewers, and copy-editors for both publications.

Contributors to *A Competency-Based Framework for Health Education Specialists – 2015*

Editors:

Dixie Dennis, Ph.D., MCHES
James F. McKenzie, Ph.D., MPH, MCHES

Contributing Authors:

Kelly Brennan, MEd, MCHES
Randall R. Cottrell, DEd, MCHES
Eva I. Doyle, Ph.D., MCHES
Jenni Flanagan, BS, CHES
Michele Guadalupe, MPH
Cynthia S. Kusorgbor-Narh, MPH, CHES
Denise M. Seabert, Ph.D., MCHES
Starr Wharton, MS, MCHES

Reviewers:

M. Elaine Auld, MPH, MCHES
Carla M. Caro, MA
Linda Lysoby, MS, MCHES, CAE
Patricia M. Muenzen, MA
Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES
Jacqui Rainey, DrPH, MCHES
Alyson Taub, EdD, MCHES
Alexis M. Williams, MPH, MS, CHES

Copy Editor: Caitlin Rizzo

Contributors to the Seventh Edition of *The Health Education Specialist: A Companion Guide for Professional Excellence*

Co -Editors:

Melissa Grim, Ph.D., MCHES
Cam Escoffery, Ph.D., MPH, CHES

Contributing Authors:

Martha Alexander, MPH, MCHES
Michelle Carvalho, MPH, CHES
Patricia A. Frye, DrPH, MPA, MCHES
Linda E. Forys, EdM, MCHES
Leah Horn Roman, MPH, MCHES
Adam Knowlden, MBA, Ph.D., CHES
Maurice “Bud” Martin, Ph.D., MCHES
C. Suzette McClellan, MPH, MCHES
Angela Mickalide, Ph.D., MCHES
Stacy Robison, MPH, MCHES
Chris Anne Rodgers Arthur, Ph.D., MPH, MCHES
Christopher N. Thomas, MS, MCHES
Amy Thompson, Ph.D., CHES

Study Companion-Practice Question Reviewers:

Carol Cox, Ph.D., MCHES
Kelly Wilson, Ph.D., MCHES

Study Companion Reviewers:

Cynthia S. Kusorgbor-Narh, MPH, CHES
Linda Lysoby, MS, MCHES, CAE
Melissa Opp, MPH, MCHES
Kerry Redican, MPH, Ph.D., CHES

Copy Editor: Caitlin Rizzo



2016 CALL FOR CANDIDATES

NCHEC is searching for individuals to fill volunteer positions on our Board of Commissioners and Division Boards. All positions adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Health Education Profession. The terms of these positions will begin on January 1, 2016. NCHEC seeks individuals from a variety of practice settings on all boards: school, health care, business/industry, academia and community. Elections will be held in August 2015. Consider nominating yourself or encouraging a peer to take this opportunity. The deadline to receive nominations form is June 15, 2015.

Board of Commissioners (BOC): One At-Large Commissioner: 5-year term. The Board of Commissioners is comprised of 11-13 individuals who govern in compliance with the mission and the objectives of NCHEC. 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): One Director: 5-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/MCHES; 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 term. The DBCHEs is comprised of 11 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 on-going online item-writing assignments, and ensures that NCHEC's testing meets acceptable standards. Interest or experience in item-writing and exam construction is preferred. The MCHES credential is required to serve on the Board.

Requirements for all positions include:

- Maintaining CHES/MCHES certification (Note: DBCHEs Directors must be MCHES)
- Participating in monthly conference calls
- Attending one face-to-face meeting (all expenses paid by NCHEC) per year –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
- Exercising independent judgment on decisions presented and maintaining confidentiality
- Advocating for credentialing
- Working on specific assignments/projects
- Supporting the work and mission of NCHEC, protecting confidentiality, and avoiding conflict of interest

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please contact Melissa Opp at: 888-624-3248 ext. 11 or mopp@nchecc.org or visit the Web site at www.nchecc.org. **Nomination deadline is June 15, 2015.**

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
Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)	www.sophe.org	April 23-25, 2015	Portland, Oregon
American College Health Assoc. (ACHA)	www.acha.org	May 27-31, 2015	Orlando, Florida
National Association of County & City Health Association (ASHA)	www.naccho.org	July 9-11, 2015	Kansas City, Missouri
American Public Health Association (APHA)	www.apha.org	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4, 2015	Chicago, Illinois

Tell a colleague or student that the
2015 CHES AND MCHES EXAM DATES
 are **October 17th, 2015**
 and **April 23th, 2016**

OCTOBER 2015						
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

APRIL 2016						
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

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

NCHEC WELCOMES NEW CHES – FALL 2014

The following is a list of those who earned the distinct title of Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) in the October 2014 examination. NCHEC welcomes them to a class of more than 11,000 active CHES. Those who opted not to be published are excluded from the list.

Jasmine W Abston	Aditi Bothra	Lisa E Crudup	Casey L Fay	Erin F Hanna
Deepa Achutuni	Brian Boyd	Alycen E Cummings	Aliya S Feit	Jennifer L Hansen
Carolyn Acker	Donata Boykin	Sarah R Dahlinghaus	Katherine Ferri	Amanda Harmer
Angeli Acosta	Virginia Braly	Cory D'Ambrosio	Keren G Ferris	Heather D Harmon
Nishelli I Ahmed	Tricia Brereton-Moore	Ashley R Davis	Daniel G Field	Hannah M Harris
Lauren Aikin-Smith	Mary Brescher	Erin E Davis	Kathy Figueroa	Peter D Hart Jr
Adekunbi O Ajiboye	Haley J Bridges	Jennifer Davis	Karen K Fiorenza	Sharla-Renee Hart
Saira Akhlaq	Carrie E Brown	Raeann I Davis	Allison M Fischer	Karrisa M Havlicek
Silvia Alemamy	Dalida C Brown	Aaron M De Leon	Elizabeth A Fisher	Logan W Hayes
Julie B Anderson	DaLynn Brown	Ana Iris De Los Santos	David J Flick	Josselyn M Heald
Kelsey A Anderson	Lacy Brown	Angela N DeCongilio	Graciela Flores	Melanie Heath
Sarah B Anderson	Larissa Q Brown	Jessica DeJong	Jacqueline Flores-Leyva	Barry A Hege
Bertha Ansley	Heather Bunker	Jamie C Delafosse	Claire Fogle	Jacob R Hernandez
Elena Antonio	Alexis Burgess	Jerry A Deming	Jovonnie Ford	Alicia R Heugel
Kathleen A Aren	Emily E Burnsed	Jasmine S Deskins	Rachael D Forster	Chanler Hilley
Laura M Arenas	Catrena L Burvick-Fowler	Melissa S Devine	Melissa L Frain	Caitlin Hills
Trista R Arnold	Kara M Busken	Aeriel B Diaz	Charnell L Franklin	Amy Hirtle
Janet Arreguin	Maren S Carlile	Ann N Dicke	Cherlyn L Fraser	Katelyn R Hobday
Ohenewaa Asiedu Okyere	Elizabeth A Carlson	Darcelle Dieudonne	Jeremy R French-Lawyer	Danielle Hoekwater
April M Audet	Jaelyn R Carpenter	Mary alice Difilippo	Johann F Fridriksson	Colleen M Holcomb
Carolyn A Bacchus	Katherine Carpenter	Darryl Hannah Dill	Kathryn C Fucik	Seth C Holloway
Shannon Bachtel	Jennifer Carr	Thomas R Dimino	Stephanie R Fuller	Carol A Hopp
Symone N Bailey	Dinah R Carter	Kuan-Jan Ding	Ethan Fusaris	Kenyatta E Hough
Jason A Baker	Katherine May N Casabar	Amanda L Divin	Anastasia M Gabriele	Robert B Houston
Shehrireen Bakhtyar	Allison C Case Barton	Samantha R Dock	Allison Gallegos	Micki Hrcir
Jeffrey P Baldwin	Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez	Hannah Dollete	TommiLee Gallup	Jacquelyn E Hughes
Lisa Banotai	Lindsey Cawood	Katlin Donaghue	Autumn R Gann	Jolyn R Hull
Sandra J Barker	Kathleen Chapuran	Kimberly Doroghian	Lauren A Gann	Alison Hunt-Johnson
Christina G Barr	Vicki A Charles	Saida Dorsey	Samantha Garcia	Kristin L Hurst
Jacklyn C Barrera	Xuwei Chen	Michele Dorszynski	Theresa E Garcia	Ellen M Indoe
Amber L Bassett	Tahirah Chichester	Jenna R Doucette	Claire T Garon	Latoya M Irvine
Michael S Bean	Kristen J Childers	Ranayda Drayton	Angela Garritson	Naomi Ishihara
Karey K Beck	Elizabeth Chisolm	Chelsey M DuBois	Caroline Gill	Christina Ivazes
Lisa J Beck	Amanda Christensen	Vonetta J Dudley	Navkiranjit K Gill	Meghan E Jacobson
Laura K Becker	Jilzy M Christensen	Vivian N Duru	Julie C Gnage	Kellee A James
Samantha A Beebe	Eric Ciavaglia	Cassidy A Eames	Taylor M Goff	Rachel A Janowicz
Natasha G Benoit	Shannon Clancy	Stephanie B Earl	Koren S Goodman	Autumn Jansen
Kathryn Berlin	Ryan A Clark	Chinwe N Ebonine	Ashley C Gothard	Margaret E Jasinski
Allison R Berry	Megan E Clayton	Brittany A Echols	Marcella J Gracer	Marie M Jean Michel
Aubrey Berry	Keavagh Clift	Jossolyn Edwards	Cherise Graham	Janet C Jeans
Jolene Bertness	Carrie R Clyde	Kevin C Egger	Lindsey Grant	Liana M Jelinski
Catherine M Bevan	Meghan Coffey	Julie Eisen	Lauren A Gray	Corinthia Jenkins
Amir K Bhochhibhoya	Carol A Cohen	Natalie B Ellenberger	Laurie H Gregory	Jean T Joeckel
Corey M Bibbins Santorelli	Eric J Conrad	Brittany N Emelle	Alexandra L Grenier	Brandy D Johnson
Scott Bier	Anthony L Cook	Kimberly M Emery	Janice C Griffin	Candra Johnson
Marcy M Bitner	Emma E Cook	Kristin L Ereksion	Erin M Griffiths	Jessica A Johnson
Courtney D Blackmon	Meagan A Costello	Jennifer C Erves	Ani Hagopian	Michael L Johnson
Osei Boaitey	Jacquelyn N Cotton	Irene Esteves	Stephanie P Haines	Janice H Jones
SharonLee M Bocalig	Megan Couillard	Michael Estrada	Lauren Haley	LoriAnn Jones
Laura E Bonhard	Lauren Cox	Amina Faizan	Viannella R Halsall	Shalaurey Jones
Erin L Borden	Kimberly T Crabill	Christopher Fan	Alyssa M Handeland	Shamika D Jones
Melissa S Borts	Katherine Croft	Meghan Farrell	Courtney S Handeland	Victoria Joseph

NCHEC WELCOMES NEW CHES – FALL 2014

Meagan E Joustra	Peter Mastroianni	Gisselle M Ortiz Burgos	Lauren N Salmo	Rebecca T Thompson
Ashley Judd	Daniel R Mattheiss	Omobolanle H Oshinusi	Allison Samuel	Linda A Tilli
Sierra K Jue-Leong	Chantal M Matthews	Allison Osoba	Claudia Sanchez-Lucas	Alice Ting
Marya C Kampmann	Sarah E McCall	Kaitlyn G Ott	Jessica C Sands	Meghan A Tizzano
Amia Kane	Megan F McCarville	Martrice A Packer	Maria A Santana Camacho	Tiffany A Tjepkes
Aviva L Katz	Nicole E McDermott	Michelle L Padilla	Peggy C Sarcomo	Kayla N Tollison
Jenna L Kendall	Christina M McDonough	Demery Paladichuk	Jasmin Saville	Jade L To'o
Zachary A King	Belle S McFarland	Toni A Pannell	Blair E Savoca	Tiffany R Trine
Susan D Kirby	Jennifer K McGee	Jenna B Papaz	Madeline Schmidt	Mona R Tu
Joan A Kirchner	Susan McGreevy	Ashley C Park	Oak H Schuetz	Nadia S Turnage
Michael Kithua	Nuriyeh M McLaren	Jeanie S Park	Julie D Seals	Jennifer L Turpel
Julia C Koch	Marshae A McNeal	Eneida Parker	Haley J Sebik	Carla Gutiérrez Tyler
Vallerie A Kolasinski	Denise S Mealy	Roger J Parker	Ebony Section	Sandra M Tyndall
Jessica C Kornegay	Hannah Meckes	Candis D Patterson	Dayna S Seelig	Ahondju Umadjela
Rose E Kramer	Lillian Mehran	Kiersten A Patton	Ellen Seely	Misty Dawn Van Cleave
Ovsana S Krikorian	Martina S Mellang	Cheryl A Payne	Pamela Segero	Natalie M Vanderbilt
Nicki L Kuentz	Jeanette M Menapace	Melissa A Perretta	Katelyn A Shallow	Melissa D Varnum
Jeanette E Lamphere	Taylor L Merritt	Meriden Peters	Landria Sheffey	Nairi Varteressian
April D Lane	Elizabeth Mesghina	Alissa E Pettit	Patricia Sheffield	Alyssa M Vega
Rebecca A Langford	Jennifer L Michaluk	Jacob E Pierce	Andrew C Sherow	Laura C Viafora
Allison M Lapp	Christina Mignano	Guilmate Pierre	Emily S Shipley	Koreena Villarreal
Tawny Laymon	Casey Miller	Lauren S Pradon	Rebecca A Shore	Laurel J Waddle
Lisa I Le	Marissa L Miller	Rachael V Price	John R Shulik	Dayna M Walchak
Kirsten M Lehman	Thomas W Miller	Kayla E Proctor	Cassidy D Silversmith	Mari E Walsh
Sarah E Leichner	Erin J Miller Lo	Savannah J Proctor	Lauren A Simien	Lesley Ward
Madison J LeMelle	Jane Mingey	Kristen Pruitt	Byron D Simpson	Angela M Ware
Lechandra E Lewis	Angela Mitchell	Daniel L Przybyla	Sarah L Sisaye	Zoe E Warren
Bonita Lillie	Hannah R Mitchell	Meredith J Putney	Katherine L Sjoberg	Courtney L Waters
Rebecca Lindsay	Carey L Mittermeier	Tara E Quintos	Elizabeth A Smith	Jennifer B Weggen
Robin M Lisdahl	Ryan Monroe	Jessica A Rafetto	Kimberly R Smith	Janine M Weitzell
Brittany R Lobato	Jessica Montana	MD Dewan Raja	Lora A Smith	Carson M Wells
Heather A Long	Kimberly A Morones	Brenda I Ramos Gonzalez	Demarcus D Sneed	David Wesoloski
Dominick Lopez	Andrea Morris	Lauren J Ramsey	Jordanna Snyder	Courtney N Wheeler
Kathryn Losey	Shelley M Moss	Ana-Alicia Rangel	Hannah J Sommer	Courtney V Whidden
Joyce C Lund	Ali B Mueller	Robin M Ratliff	Ashley L Spells	Megan D White
Sandra F Lusby	Amanda S Murray	Christine M Ratych	Katherine R Spoto	Diane M Whitson
Kathleen Ly	Nina Mykhaylov	Sarah M Ravenhall	Emily Spotts	Stuart Wilezol
Patti Lyman	Kristine Nasto	Sara M Raycraft	Herisa S Stanislaus	Jenna L Willems
Erin C Lynch	Antor O Ndep	Katherine E Reysack	Jennifer L Staton	Corey Williams
Mackenzie R Lynch	Ladene A Nelson	Katelyn E Rhiel	Emily E Stearns	Lauren A Williams
Lauren E Lysiak	Mary Nelson	Krystal M Riggins	Julea Steiner	Allyson Wilson
Anna MacQueen	Enuolare Ngofa	Meghan J Rimelspanch	Louis R Steuber-Rosché	Brittany R Wilson
Fitumai Madrid	Huynh H Nguyen	Mallory C Rinckey	Chelsea E Stewart	Christina M Wise
Mary Lynne Magnus	Jennifer T Nguyen	Odetta S Rivera	Shantel S Stewart	Tiffany A Wise
Norah Majrashi	Sophie Nguyen	Michael C Robertson	Kathleen H Stofocik	Deann M Wisuri
Tracy L Malinowski	Kate C Noelke	Virginia L Rodriguez	Abigail M Stokka	Melissa K Wittmayer
Jessica M Mango	Daniela Novotny	Marion A Rorke	Tracie Stone	Jacqline Wolf Tice
Adina Manning	Lynne A Obiaka	Caitlin M Roseberry	Amanda J Straw	Elizabeth Wood
Kimberly S Manning	Shannon O'Donnell	Candice T Rouquette	Ronessa M Strickland-Roberts	Jacquelyn D Young
Paige A Mansfield	Anna N O'Gorman	Michael J Rovito	Nichole W Sutton	Ashley R Zelek
Tara M Marciniak	Manda Oien	Jenny M Rowlands	Leigh E Szucs	Shuang Zhang
Allison M Martin	Brittney D Oliver	Molly Russ	Jermey O Taylor	Yijia Zhang
Kyon Martin	McKenzie OMalley	Kelly A Ryder	Mia G Thomas	Andrea W Zhou
Lusi M Martin	Tamela Orell	Cindy R Sabatino	Rosemary Thomas	
Leslie Martinez	Karla B Oropeza	Karen E Sadowski	Jessica K Thompson	

NCHEC WELCOMES NEW MCHES – FALL 2014

The following is a list of those who earned the distinct title of Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) in the October 2014 examination. NCHEC welcomes them to a class of more than 1,000 active MCHES. Those who opted not to be published are excluded from the list.

Sandra L Alkire
Roxanne P Beharie
Kristin Bergin
Theresa L Blanco
Carla J Brown
Celeste C Chung
Ashley N Collins
Jennifer Dale
Steven W Day
Angela De La Hoz
Lorelei Dickey Cropley

Amy J Dobson
Debra L Fetherman
Annette M Florence
James E Florence
Jane C Frank
Sherry K Grable
Amanda L Graves
Leslie R Horton
Elizabeth G Howley
Eleanor J Hughes
Kathryn J Jinkins

Cynthia S Klement
Dawn L Larlee
Amanda N Lynch
Vanessa L Morgan Valdovinos
Elizabeth A Murray
Fletcher I Njororai
Tamara Y Oyola-Santiago
Corinne L Quinn
Jasynda J Radanovich
Serita M Reels

Carolyn D Rodgers
Regina M Roig-Romero
Joanna Rybak
Tara R Schuster
Laurie R Sewell
Andrea J Skowronek
Senna L Towner
Adrienne Wald
Monica E Walker

HIGH SCORER on the October 2014 CHES Examination **Diane Whitson, MPH, CHES**

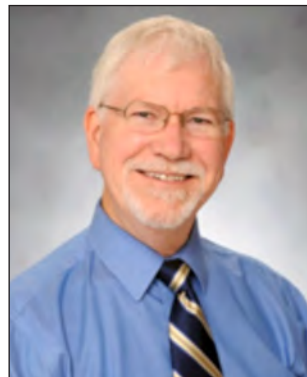


Diane Whitson is a Health Literacy Program Coordinator at Health Literacy Missouri (HLM), a statewide not-for-profit organization based in St. Louis, MO. She developed a passion for helping people make better decisions about their health by giving easy-to-understand information during an internship with the American Diabetes Association. After earning her Master in Public Health in

Behavioral Science/Health Education & Epidemiology from Saint Louis University, she took her passion for clear health communication to Health Literacy Missouri. In her current position, she leads a statewide Health Insurance Literacy project for the Missouri Foundation for Health's (MFH) Expanding Coverage Initiative. She is the primary liaison with key health insurance literacy stakeholders, project partners, and community organizations. Diane delivers trainings for communication on health insurance literacy and best practices to professionals statewide. Before joining HLM, she had over four years of experience managing research studies in the Department of Neurosurgery at Saint Louis University, including the coordination of a \$5.3 million federally-funded project on traumatic brain injury.

"I took the CHES exam for professional development – to distinguish myself as a professional by meeting established standards and showing my dedication to the field of health education – and to increase my credibility in my current role."

HIGH SCORER on the October 2014 MCHES Examination **Jim Florence, DrPH, MPH, MCHES**



Jim Florence serves as Professor of Public Health in the Master of Public Health Program at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. A native of Texas, he has worked in private and public health education and health promotion positions for the past three decades. Before coming to Liberty he served on the inaugural faculty of the first School of Public Health in Tennessee at East Tennessee State

University. Both there and in a prior position at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, he facilitated community-based health education with students in innovative interdisciplinary rural health training programs. Before entering academe he designed and delivered community health promotion programs through Baptist Hospital in Nashville and the Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas. He is married to Annette Florence, who is also MCHES certified.

"I took the MCHES exam because I believe in the credential and what it represents. Having served on both the NCHEC Division Board for Professional Development and later on the Board of Commissioners, I saw firsthand the logic of the credential and its potential for establishing the professionalism of the practice. And then there's the inspiration of my students, many of whom are going to take the CHES exam as soon as they are eligible. I wanted to be the example of advancing to the highest level of certification in the field, to encourage them to set their sights for the same."

CHES AND MCHES ITEM WRITING

Written by: DBCHEs Directors, Amy Hedman, PhD, MCHES and Jill Clutter, PhD, MCHES

Have you ever wondered who writes the items for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) exams? This challenging task is assigned to the Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs), which consists of 11 directors. These certified health education specialists represent a variety of health education settings, including academic, worksite health promotion, and public health. Directors are elected to their positions and serve five-year terms. We meet monthly via conference calls and also participate in one or two in-person meetings per year at the NCHEC office in Whitehall, PA.



Our board recommends policies related to the exams' development, administration, and evaluation. We also are responsible for writing, evaluating, and maintaining the item banks. We value and uphold standards within the credentialing industry, test reliability, fairness, and test security.

CHES and MCHES Exams

The CHES and MCHES are distinct exams. The CHES exam measures possession, application and interpretation of knowledge in the Seven Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists. The CHES exam measures the entry-level Sub-competencies while the MCHES exam measures the advanced-level Sub-competencies related to the Seven Areas of Responsibility. Both examinations consist of 165 multiple choice questions (150 scored, 15 pilot tested).

Item Writing

Item banks are maintained for both CHES and MCHES exams. Each item bank contains over 500 items; not all items in the item bank will appear on an exam.

Responding to the recent Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis results (HESPA), our board is currently in the process of item writing and review. In December 2014, we completed an online item writing training and item writing assignments were given to board members. In addition to current board members, several past board members volunteered to help with item writing and review.

We use an Online Item Writing tool to submit and review new items. In writing items, we aim to assess knowledge; application and analysis; and synthesis and evaluation. For every item submitted, a supporting resource with page number for the correct answer is required. The selected resource texts and materials used to write items have official board approval. We work to make sure items do not include ambiguous terms, incomplete sentences, excess verbiage, stereotypes, or bias. For each item, there is only one correct answer amongst three plausible distractors.



Item Review and Validation

Once a new item is created in the Online Item Writing Tool, reviewers review the item and offer feedback to the writer. Reviewers are given assignments on which items to review. Reviewers often forward items to other reviewers for additional feedback. The item writer receives the feedback and is responsible for revising and submitting the item for further online review. All items submitted in the online tool are reviewed again at the face-to-face item writing workshop.

During our face-to-face workshops, new items are reviewed by peer review teams. Teams rate each item based upon the following criteria:

- Item accuracy
- Relevancy to current/best practice
- Adequacy of content coverage
- Content is free of stereotypes, bias, and offensive language, descriptions, or terminology
- Rubric classification: which Sub-competency does the item address?
- Lack of item redundancy
- Accuracy of the correct answer and the plausibility of each incorrect answer (distractor)
- Validity of source with specific reference (current textbooks and publications)
- Consistency with style guidelines
- Statistical information such as item difficulty and item discrimination, average scores, usage history

Items that do not meet the above criteria will either be corrected or deleted from further consideration. Rejected items are returned to the writer with feedback. The writer has the option to revise the rejected item and resubmit it for review.

Pretesting

As stated, each item is extensively reviewed before being included on an exam for pretesting. The process of pretesting involves placing 15 new items on the operational form (150 items) of an exam. Although included on the exam, pretest questions are not considered when scoring the exam. Items that have been pretested are analyzed statistically before determining if they will be added to the item bank.

Conclusion

As you can see, item writing is an intensive process and one that NCHEC takes very seriously. Each item is reviewed multiple times, by many people involved in DBCHEs. We aim to make sure the CHES and MCHES exams reflect the knowledge and skills of competent health education specialists. The health education specialist field is ever evolving, hence the CHES and MCHES exams must evolve as well. If you are interested in this process consider joining the DBCHEs team. Open positions are available starting in 2016 (see the call for candidates page 5).



NCHEC NEWS

CREDENTIALING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH EDUCATION



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

National Commission for
Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303
Whitehall, PA 18052

Phone: (888) 624-3248

Fax: (800) 813-0727

Web site: www.nchec.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 274
Lehigh Valley, PA

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE



Like us on Facebook, CHES Certified
Health Education Specialists



Join our LinkedIn group – the
Official NCHEC CHES/MCHES group

NCHEC STAFF

Executive Director

Linda Lysoby, MS, MCHES, CAE
llysoby@nchec.org • ext. 13

Deputy Executive Director

Melissa Opp, MPH, MCHES
mopp@nchec.org • ext. 11

Credentialing Project Specialist

MCHES Exam / Eligibility Inquiries
Cynthia Kusorgbor-Narh, MPH, CHES
narh@nchec.org • ext. 16

Continuing Education Coordinator

Continuing Education / Provider /
Recertification / Change of Status Inquiries
Melissa Schmell
mschmell@nchec.org • ext. 14

Exam Coordinator/ Office Manager

CHES Exam / Eligibility Inquiries
Tanya Cole
tcole@nchec.org • ext. 12

Financial Coordinator

Renewal / Accounts Payable Inquiries
Lisa Petrone
lpetrone@nchec.org • ext. 15

Administrative Coordinator

Jessica Wessner
Contact Information Inquiries
admin@nchec.org • ext. 10

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Executive Officers 2015

Dixie Dennis, PhD, MCHES, FAAHE (Chair At-large)	(2014-2018)
Dianne Kerr, MA, MEd, PhD, MCHES (Vice-chair, DBCHEs)	(2014-2016)
Kellie Flannery, MPH, CHES (Secretary, At-large)	(2011-2015)
Nancy Clifton-Hawkins, MPH, MCHES (Treasurer, At-large)	(2015-2017)
Deborah Fortune, PhD, MCHES (Immediate Past Chair)	(2010-2015)

Commissioners

Chesley Cheatham, M.Ed, MCHES (DBPD)	(2015-2017)
Amy S. Hedman, PhD, MCHES (DBCHEs)	(2015-2017)
Ronena Jenkins, MPH, CHES (At-large)	(2015-2019)
Miguel Perez, PhD, MS, MCHES (DBPPP)	(2015-2017)
Kerry Redican, PhD, MPH, CHES (DBPPP)	(2015-2017)
Nicolette Warren, MS, MCHES (DBPD)	(2014-2016)
Larry Williams, PhD, MSW (Public Member)	(2014-2016)

Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists

Amy S. Hedman, PhD, MCHES (Coordinator)
Dianne Kerr, MA, MEd, PhD, MCHES (Vice-Coord.)
Kathleen Allison, PhD, MPH, MCHES
Christine Abarca, MPH, MCHES
David Brown, MA, EdD, MCHES
Jill Clutter, PhD, MCHES
Brian Gordon, MA, PhD, MCHES
James F. McKenzie, MEd, PhD, MPH, MCHES
Shana Pack-Gangluff, MS, MCHES
Darlene Sanders, PhD, MPH, MCHES
Melody Yarbrough Knight, PhD, RN, MCHES

Division Board for Professional Preparation and Practice

Miguel Perez, PhD., MS, BA, MCHES (Coordinator)
Kerry Redican, MPH, PhD, CHES (Vice-Coordinator)
Gwyndolyn Ashcom, MPH, MCHES
Janice Clark, EdD, MS, BA, MCHES
Chris Eisenbarth, PhD, MCHES
Carolyn Rodgers, PhD, MCHES
Julie Zumas, MPH, CPH, CHES

Division Board for Professional Development

Nicolette Warren, MS, MCHES (Coordinator)
Chesley Cheatham, M.Ed, BS, MCHES (Vice-Coord.)
Nicole Lindsey, MPH, BS, MCHES
Erin Reiney, MPH, CHES
Karen Stewart, MPH, CHES
Jennifer Taylor, MPH, MCHES
Nigel Thomas, Ed.D, MPH, MCHES

Editorial Board

Editor – Melissa Opp, MPH, MCHES, NCHEC

Copy Editors – Cynthia Kusorgbor-Narh, MPH, CHES

Emily Tyler, MPH, RHED, RCHES, Former NCHEC Commissioner