

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Written by: Sandy Schaffer,
NCHEC Continuing Education Coordinator

Continuing Education is educational experiences that assist in the development or enhancement of the knowledge and skills directly related to the individual's professional occupation. NCHEC encourages CHES and MCHES to pursue continuing education in all of the Seven Areas of Responsibility and related Competencies for Health Education Specialists, as competence in all areas is essential to success in health education practice.

NCHEC recommends certified individuals to strive for 15 credits per year to meet the 75 hour education requirement. There are many continuing education opportunities available to get the required 75 hours in a five-year cycle. Some of the opportunities include professional conferences, seminars, workshops, self study, and online courses. Several professional organizations offer self study opportunities within its publications. Continuing education opportunities are announced on the NCHEC Web site through the Quick Links tab "CE Credit Activities", emails from designated providers and direct mail.

CHES/MCHES Continuing Education - the Same

- 75 CECH required for five year recertification
- Category I - preapproved by NCHEC
- Category I - minimum 45 hours
- Category II - not preapproved by NCHEC
- Category II - maximum 30 hours
- All 75 CECH can be earned in Category I

MCHES Continuing Education - the Difference

- Category I advanced - relate to advanced-level Sub-competencies, preapproved
- Category II advanced - relate to advanced-level Sub-competencies, not preapproved
- Category I or II - minimum of 30 CECH must come from advanced-level Sub-competencies.

CHES/MCHES SURVEY

Thank you to all those who participated in the recent CHES/MCHES Survey regarding continuing education. A total of 2,718 individuals took the time to complete this survey. Congratulations to the winners of the Barnes and Noble Gift Cards - Trisha Horace from Texas; Sondra O'Callaghan from Florida; and David Rodgers from California!

The survey is currently being analyzed and when completed, full results and information will be shared with all CHES/MCHES.

Current Postdoctoral Researcher and a CHES, Values Experience at Professional Conference

Written by: Camonia Long, PhD, CHES

Currently, I am a postdoctoral junior researcher at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center) in Honolulu, Hawaii. I moved to a postdoctoral fellowship at the UH Cancer Center to broaden my scope of cancer disparities research. As a junior researcher in the UH Cancer Center's Nutrition & Behavioral Cancer Prevention in a Multiethnic Population Postdoctoral Training Program, I am able to learn the interdisciplinary nature of the nutritional and behavioral epidemiology of cancer through an individually tailored educational and research experience. I am currently working to enhance my understanding of rigorous scientific areas including cancer epidemiology and cancer screening behavior. Through my postdoc I was able to attend this year's 139th Annual American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting, held in Washington, D.C. This was my third APHA meeting, and so far it has been the best!

During the meeting I had the opportunity to attend several scientific sessions that pique my personal as well as research interests. My personal goal is related to helping to eliminate cancer health disparities through cancer health education. My research interests include educating young women on breast cancer and their breast health. As a CHES, I also was delighted to see so many of the APHA scientific sessions that I attended were approved for continuing education credit. I have been a CHES for a little under five years now and am glad to be a part of such a uniquely qualified group of individuals who know how and what it means to assess, design, and implement sustainable community health education programs that deliver positive benefits to vulnerable communities.



Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and Camonia Long, PhD, CHES, at the 2011 APHA annual meeting

I decided to become CHES because I wanted to ensure that I was nationally certified as a health education practitioner. Moreover, I desired credentialing with an organization that had an ongoing commitment to continuing my advanced-level professional development.

When visiting the APHA exhibit, I was pleased to meet Surgeon General Regina Benjamin. As a result of the scientific sessions and networking, this year's APHA was an amazing experience for me.