

## WELCOME

Greetings and welcome to the website of the ***National Implementation Task Force for Accreditation in Health Education***. As co-chairs of the task force, we are pleased that you have accessed this site and hope you find it helpful. At this site you will find information pertaining to:

- program accreditation in health education,
- the history of the movement toward accreditation of professional preparation programs in health education as a quality assurance mechanism,
- the SABPAC program approval process,
- definitions of key terms and links to important sources of related information, and
- upcoming conference presentations, meetings, and opportunities to participate in the profession-wide dialogue on health education professional preparation and program accreditation.

From a historical perspective, we are now the third task force to address the issue of academic program accreditation. The initial *National Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education*, chaired by Collins Airhihenbuwa and John Allegrante, worked from 2001-2004. After exhaustive study, and the Task Force provided a series of recommendations to the profession.

The second task force, the *National Transition Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education*, was chaired by Kathleen Roe and David Birch. From 2004-2006, this group collected data on the status of current community health education preparation programs, interacted with various stakeholders, and organized the “Third National Congress for Institutions Preparing Health Educators: Linking Program Assessment, Accountability and Improvement” in Dallas, Texas in February, 2006.

Late in 2006, the third task force titled the ***National Implementation Task Force for Accreditation in Health Education*** was formed. In September, 2007, the entire Task Force met in Reston, Virginia, for a two-day meeting to plan future directions. During the meeting, reports were provided by several important groups including the National Council for Accreditation in Teacher Education (NCATE), the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC), the SOPHE/AAHE Baccalaureate Program Approval Committee (SABPAC) and the Council for Education for Public Health (CEPH). These reports helped to frame the future work of the National Implementation Task Force for Accreditation in Health Education, which is charged as follows:

*“Based on the recommendations of the initial Accreditation and Transition Task Forces and informed by the Third National Congress for Institutions Preparing Health Educators (2006), the charge of the National Implementation Task Force for Accreditation in Health Education is to help shape the processes and to*

*continue to prepare the field for accreditation as a quality assurance mechanism for the profession.”*

In carrying out this charge, the Task Force is busy communicating with health education professionals via manuscripts, presentations, web-pages, webinars, and other promotional materials. These communication products will be used to educate the profession and help professional preparation programs understand and prepare for future accreditation. The Task Force also closely monitors the various accreditation and certification bodies to determine changes in their procedures and processes that may impact the work of the Accreditation Task Force.

It is impossible to provide a definitive timeline for when a coordinated system of accreditation will be available for all health education programs. The decisions concerning accreditation are not in the hands of the Task Force. The role of the Task Force is to advocate for existing accrediting agencies to alter their procedures to include health education programs at the bachelor's and master's levels in their scope of practice. The current Accreditation Task Force has agreed to serve through the year 2010 with the expectation that the accreditation process will be either fully or partially implemented by that time.

As we move closer to accreditation for health education programs and as more information on the accreditation process becomes available, we will attempt to provide the most up-to-date information to the profession through multiple communication channels. We always welcome your comments and input on the process.



Randall R. Cottrell, Co-Chair  
Accreditation Implementation Task Force



David Birch, Co Chair  
Accreditation Implementation Task Force

*Note: We would like to thank Dr. Kathleen Roe for her immeasurable contributions to this accreditation movement. Kathleen served on the First Task Force, co-chaired the Transition Task Force, and co-chaired the Implementation Task Force from October 2006-June 2008. She resigned due to other professional responsibilities and was replaced by Dr. David Birch.*