



# *SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION*

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## **SOPHE Celebrates Chapter Appreciation Month**

Washington, DC – The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) today launched SOPHE Chapter Appreciation Month for the period September 1 through 30, 2011. Each week for the next four weeks, National SOPHE will highlight through its website and other communiqué the accomplishments, activities and outstanding leadership of its 19 chapters. Spanning more than 30 states, northern Mexico and Western Canada, SOPHE chapters represent some 2,000 health education specialists dedicated to improving the public’s health through health education.

“SOPHE chapters represent important ‘boots on the ground’ by providing state, local and regional continuing education, partnerships, networking, and advocacy,” says Dr. Daniel Perales, SOPHE President and member of the Northern California SOPHE chapter. “We salute SOPHE chapters for their important contributions to promoting health and health equity.”

Complemented by SOPHE’s connections to some 250 professional preparation programs in health education and public health around the country, SOPHE chapters are engaged in addressing local and timely topics through their professional development and continuing education activities, advocating for public policies conducive to health, and building partnerships with other organizations in their states/regions. They also provide an important training ground for future leaders in disease prevention and health promotion.

“Being a part of a chapter has helped me to improve my skills as a professional and become more knowledgeable in policy advocacy and other important health education and prevention agendas,” comments Paso del Norte Chapter Delegate Eileen Huereque. “I am especially proud of our local chapter’s contributions to strengthening the collaboration of health education specialists, teachers, professors, health professionals and students from three different regions here in the southwest.”

To access SOPHE chapter profiles and/or to learn about their varying regions, activities, and partnerships, visit [http://sophe.sophe.org/chapters\\_sophe\\_list.asp](http://sophe.sophe.org/chapters_sophe_list.asp) . For a video on “What is a Health Education Specialist?” see [NEW Health Education Specialist Video Press Release](#).

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*Founded in 1950, the Society for Public Health Education’s mission is to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion and to promote the health of society through advances in health education theory and research, excellence in professional preparation and practice, advocacy for public policies conducive to health, and the achievement of health equity for all. For more information, see [www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org).*