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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SOPHE Members Recognized as Master Certified Health Education Specialists**

**Washington, DC** – The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) congratulates the 134 SOPHE members who have recently earned their Master Certified Health Education Specialists (MCHES) credentials from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., (NCHEC). As the leading provider of continuing education for entry- and advanced-level Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES), SOPHE is pleased that its members merit this distinction.

“The SOPHE members and fellow health education specialists that comprise this first MCHES cohort represent pioneers in the field,” says SOPHE Chief Executive Officer Elaine Auld, MPH, MCHES. “We salute these professionals who have met NCHEC’s rigorous standards for earning the MCHES credential and their commitment to exceptional health education practice.”

Health Education was the first public health discipline to develop evidence-based competencies some 30 years ago, which outline the knowledge and skills that serve as the basis for certification. This distinction alerts the public and employers that these professionals are applying the latest health education science and skills to improve the public’s health. The advanced-level health education competencies, upon which the MCHES certification is based, were researched and published by SOPHE in collaboration with NCHEC and the American Association for Health Education (AAHE).

“With today’s increased focus on prevention and wellness, the skills of health education specialists will be in even greater demand to help keep our nation’s workforce healthy and productive,” Auld said. “SOPHE looks forward to continuing its pace as the leading provider of continuing education through its webinars, journal self-study articles, and conferences for CHES and MCHES.

For more information about health education specialists, and a complete listing of SOPHE members who are MCHES, see [www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org). For more information about the MCHES credential and its requirements, see [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org).

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