

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF
SOPHE'S 60TH YEAR



- Whereas,* 1949 marks the year during which health education professionals first gathered to explore the organization of an independent society representing the discipline of public health educators; and
- Whereas,* An organization known as the Society of Public Health Educators, or SOPHE, was officially founded in 1950 and elected Clair E. Turner as its first president; and
- Whereas,* The founding fathers and mothers of SOPHE pioneered the first standards for professional preparation in health education, which later hastened the first accreditation of Master's of Public Health Program in Community Health Education; and
- Whereas,* SOPHE, later renamed as the Society for Public Health Education, has remained dedicated to its non-profit mission over 60 years to improving the health of all people through education; and
- Whereas,* SOPHE provided seminal leadership in advancing the profession, including but not limited to, organizing the first Bethesda conference, developing entry- and graduate-level health education competencies, promulgating global health promotion competencies, articulating the first health education research agenda, developing a code of ethics, and obtaining recognition of "health educator" as a unique Standard Occupational Classification by the Department of Labor; and
- Whereas,* Recognizing the importance of policy advocacy, SOPHE relocated to Washington, D.C., in 1995, and continues to pursue Dorothy Nyswander's vision today in which "justice is the same for every [person]; where dissent is taken seriously as an index of something wrong or something needed; where diversity is expected; . . . where the best of health care is available to all; where poverty is a community disgrace not an individual's weakness; [and] where desires for power over [people] become satisfaction with the use of power for people"; and
- Whereas,* SOPHE's many decades of conferences, peer-reviewed journals, and other forums have substantially contributed to health education research and its dissemination and translation into excellence in practice; and
- Whereas,* SOPHE's diverse membership has substantially enriched the research and practice base of the field as behavioral scientists, practitioners, and students working in schools, universities, health/medical settings, community based organizations, worksites, international agencies, and federal, state and local government; and
- Whereas,* Chapters, which have been a part of SOPHE's fabric for more than forty years, provide a rich source of continuing education, advocacy, networking, and partnerships that are vital to SOPHE's continued success; and
- Whereas,* SOPHE co-sponsored research has revealed employers' thoughts and attitudes toward the unique contributions of professionally trained health educators and championed efforts such as National Health Education Week to bring national attention to the unique contributions of professionally trained health educators; and
- Whereas,* Partnerships with other public and private organizations are a valued part of SOPHE's history and have contributed to progress in health education and health promotion; **therefore be it:**
- Resolved:* That SOPHE substantially commit to working with other health education related organizations, both nationally and internationally, to unify, promote and strengthen the profession;
- Resolved:* That SOPHE develop and implement a marketing and advocacy initiative promoting the value of health education specialists, as the frontline advocate for promoting health among individuals, families and communities;
- Resolved:* That during this 60th anniversary year, all SOPHE members find opportunities to give of their time, talent or treasure at the national, chapter or local levels to help pursue SOPHE's mission and continue to enrich the field of health education and health promotion; and
- Resolved:* That all SOPHE members share the achievements and accomplishment of the Society by providing a copy of this proclamation to their employers, colleagues, students, and others.