

Barbara Hernandez

Educational Background:

Ph. D. Health Studies Texas Women's University

M. Ed. Health, Physical Education, & Dance Northwestern State University of Louisiana

B. A. Elementary Education Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Current Position: Professor and Graduate Coordinator, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX

Immediate Past Professional Position: Associate Professor, Texas Wesleyan University of Fort Worth

Professional Activities:

- Certified Health Education Specialist, C.H.E.S.
- Chapter Founder and Advisor: *Delta Omicron chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma Health Education Honorary*, Society, Lamar University, 2003-2011
- National Fellow of the Research Consortium, Inducted 2009
- Published Health Textbook: Hernandez, B. L. M. (2010). *Foundation Concepts of Global Community Health Promotion and Education*. Amherst, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- Funded Grant and Published Journal Article: Hernandez, B. L. M., Vengurlekar, R., Kelkar, A., & Thomas, G. (November, 2009). The legacy of Carville: A history of the last leprosarium in the U.S. *American Journal of Health Studies*, 24(2), 314-325.
- International Presentation: Hernandez, B. (2008). An examination of culturally diverse teenage diet & physical activity patterns in the U.S. [Abstract]. Paper presented at the 8th *IUHPE Conference on Health Promotion and Education*, Turin, Italy.
- National Presentation: Hernandez, B. (April, 2009). What is health advocacy? Paper presented at the *American Association for Health Education, AAHPERD Conference*. [Abstract]. Reston: VA.
- Invited State Featured Speaker: Hernandez, B. *A changing paradigm for health educators; culturally and linguistically competent health programs*. (September, 2009). Texas Society for Public Health Educators Conference, San Antonio, TX

AAHE/AAHPERD Professional Activities and Service - National, District or State:

- American Association for Health Education, Advocacy Committee Member, 2006-2010
- Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance, Reviewer for Research Consortium Fellows Candidates, 2009-2010
- TAHPERD Board of Directors, Vice President for Health, 2009-2011
- Southern District American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (SDAAHPERD)
- Member at Large, Delegate to Representative Assembly, 2006-2009
- National Dance Association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Executive Director, 1999-2001
- Journal Reviewer for: *International Electronic Journal of Health Education*, *American Journal of Health Education*, *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*, *Health Promotion and Practice*, and *The Health Education Monograph*

Brief Statement

My vision for health education for our nation involves broad scale efforts promoting evidence based health programs, theories, and strategies. These programs must support community environments and infrastructure changes that support healthy lifestyles. Examples are promoting physical activity opportunities as walking and biking trails and healthy nutrition in schools. Mandated, comprehensive and coordinated school health programs can set the standard for improving the health habits of our youth. Health advocates must push to promote protective health legislation and mandate access to services for everyone. By using health literacy, education, and prevention programs, we are protecting and promoting health. The future of our nation's health depends on embedding positive health practices and facilitating environments that institutionalize these for a lifetime.

Service to the profession is an integral part of being a health educator and a responsibility for professionals. Working in partnership with other board members to lead and assist in wise decision making for AAHE is paramount at this critical time. AAHE has made valuable contributions to the profession and the Board of Directors serves as a constant in advocating and promoting our nation's health. The burden of continuing these efforts is determined by choosing strong, visionary board members. The AAHE Board of Directors is active in advocacy, solving prominent health issues, endorsing legislation, and publishing health position statements for positive health practices. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to these stalwart efforts and solve new, emerging health issues. Professional development opportunities are integral to the association. AAHE is active in collaborations with other health organizations to strengthen the profession. These two efforts must continue. A focused board member must be poised for predicting health changes, leading the association, and contributing to the future direction for AAHE. With chronic diseases, obesity, and lack of physical activity on the rise, AAHE is positioned as a strong leader and advocate for positive changes for healthy environments for the nation's future and this contribution must be preserved through the leadership of a dedicated board of directors.

I hope to bring unique leadership and perspective to AAHE. My wide range of experiences includes community health practice and teaching health at the university level and K-12 public schools. Valuable skills were acquired through service on state, district, and national level boards of directors. These skills could assist with the planning and guidance of AAHE. I gained an understanding of the structure of the AAHPERD Board of Governors and the AAHE Board of Directors through national experiences. If elected, a goal would be advocating for national health issues supported by AAHE. Proposing additional and improved member services in professional development, advocacy training, and leadership is another goal. Knowledgeable, tenacious, and task oriented are skills needed for board members and words used by administrators to describe me. I would pledge to make informed decisions for AAHE and promote healthy lifestyles for the nation. Achieving these goals and those endorsed and initiated by the AAHE Board of Directors and members would guide my efforts if chosen as a board member.