SOPHE-AAHE Joint Statement

March 1, 2012

SOPHE and AAHE leaders continue to make exciting progress in aligning their organizational resources to create a stronger voice for the health education profession.

Since 2008, leaders from the two groups have conducted regular conference calls, met face-to-face four times, and participated in dialogues with each organization's respective members about the strategic realignment and vision for the future. Among the benefits of the proposed organizational convergence are the potential to create the largest international, independent organization representing some 8,000 or more health educators; expanding the diversity of programs and services to meet members' needs; attracting a larger attendance at annual meetings for disseminating the latest health education research and practice; maximizing health educators' collaboration at the state/local levels for continuing education and advocacy; more efficient use of volunteers' time and expertise; and improved economies of scale within a single organizational infrastructure.

A significant milestone was reached in fall 2011 when the Board of Governors of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (AAHE's parent organization), voted unanimously to approve AAHE's release from the Alliance. The period of organizational transition will extend to May 1, 2013.

In the interim, AAHE and SOPHE have convened three task forces on publications, awards, and student engagement to recommend key aspects of AAHE's legacy that could be integrated into SOPHE. Member feedback will continue to be solicited through conferences, webinars, newsletters, and other forums for input on the movement toward a stronger, unified leadership for the health education profession.