

## Foreword

It is with great honor that we have been able to serve as the Guest Editors for the 2008 *International Electronic Journal of Health Education* Special Issue on Distance Education. The mission of this special issue is to provide the readership with manuscripts that outline the procedures and processes used by health educators to design, implement, and evaluate successful distance education courses and programs in health education. The articles chosen for this supplemental issue provide practical insight into the utilization of technology applications to deliver education to students who are geographically separated from the instructor.

We would like to congratulate all of the authors who submitted papers for publication in the special issue. The efforts of those health educators and professionals, who submitted papers, demonstrate a firm commitment to the growth of the health education field, through the use of technology.

Provided in this issue are articles that focus on an array of topics, from developing distance education courses to challenges and solutions for translating traditional courses into distance education offerings. The first article, *Making the Case for Distance Education in the Health Education and Health Promotion Profession*, is an introduction, provided by health educators with over a decade of experience in designing, implementing and evaluating distance education programs, with information and procedures on “making the case” for distance education programs in the field. Several articles, *Comparability in E-learning: An Overview of a Fully Online Undergraduate Program in Health Education*, *Development and Delivery of Online Health Promotion Bachelor’s Degree Programs for Allied Health Professions*, and *A Strategic Administrative and Technological Support Model for an Innovative Undergraduate Public Health Minor*, provide practical examples of designing, implementing and evaluating undergraduate distance education courses and programs in various health fields. *Lost in Translation: The Challenges of Changing a Health Education Methods Course to an Online “Hybrid” Course for Pre-Service Elementary Teachers* is an article that provides readers with an application example of how the University of Hawaii at Manoa utilized technology to provide a hybrid online course for a cohort of elementary pre-service teachers; whereas, Liguori and colleagues share results from evaluating outcomes of a traditional wellness course versus an online wellness course. Lastly, the article entitled, *The Marketing of Distance Education*, provides the readership with ideas for utilizing marketing principles for distance education program success. Collectively, these articles give us insight into how distance education technology has begun to reshape the educational delivery mechanisms used in the public health and health education fields.

Lastly, we would like to commend the fine work of the reviewers. The selection of articles to include was an important task, and we appreciate the dedication and scholarly reviews provided by each reviewer. In closing, it with great alacrity that we present to you the 2008 *International Electronic Journal of Health Education* Special Issue on Distance Education.