

Announcing the Launch of Vermont Community of Health Educators

Join your health education colleagues in the Vermont Community of Health Educators (VCHE)! VCHE provides members with a dynamic network of professional and personal support including professional development tailored to the needs of health education professionals across Vermont and opportunities to connect with health educator colleagues for rich and meaningful discussions about the state of health education across our state and nationally. This network provides the opportunity to stay current on what is happening in the environment surrounding K-12 health education.

Why do we need a Vermont Community of Health Educators?

Vermont health educators do not have a professional network in which they can easily exchange ideas, learn from each other, and receive on-going professional development and support from DOE staff and state and national partners. This professional opportunity allows a regular venue for health educators to learn and grow and develop best practices in health education. Each year will focus on a broad content or skill area to allow for multiple engagement opportunities and to strengthen professional growth.

What are the benefits of membership?

- Focused series of professional development
- Peer mentorship
- Opportunity to stay current on adolescent health matters
- Pedagogical skills-building based on current best practice
- Opportunities to learn from experts in the field

What are the overall objectives of this community?

By the end of the 2011-2012 school year membership in VCHE, participants will have:

- increased their knowledge of and comfort level with teaching a variety of health education concepts
- reflected on, revised and/or improved classroom practices

Upon what is this concept based?

Based on 2010 **School Health Profiles** health educators stated they would like to receive professional development in the following areas which will be addressed through VCHE:

Content:

1. Sexuality
2. Emotional/mental health
3. Suicide prevention
4. Violence prevention

Pedagogy/skills:

1. teaching skills for behavior change
2. assessing or evaluating students in HE
3. encouraging parent and/or community involvement
4. using interactive teaching methods

If I join, what do I commit to?

- Two-day summer institute held on August 18 and 19, 2011 (central Vermont)
- 2 face to face sessions during the school year (October 19, 2011 and March 16, 2012 – locations TBD)
- Being a peer mentor (you will be paired up with a colleague for joint mentorship)
- Signed letter from principal supporting VCHE membership

What is the cost:

No attendance costs for VCHE members!

Who can participate?

This opportunity is designed for school personnel who are responsible for providing health education in the classroom. You may apply to join VCHE if you:

1. are a health educator with a health endorsement, or
2. have taken the on line Standards and Assessment course offered through the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative, or
3. have participated in the Health Education 101 workshops (were offered by the Vermont Department of Education during the 2010-2011 school year), or
4. working under a provisional license for health education

What can I expect from each session?

- in person sessions will include some content delivery, some networking, some work time for immediate application
- on-line sessions will occur via webinar and will consist mostly of content delivery
- each member will be paired up with a “peer mentor” for deeper connections, learning and processing opportunities

When/where will sessions be held?

- summer institute (two day) August 18 and 19, 2011 (central Vermont)
- in person October 19, 2011 (location TBD)
- in person March 16, 2012 (location TBD)
- May 10, 2012 to hold in case needed for rain date
- Webinars offered: September; December; February; April; June

Join today! <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VCHE>

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