

## OAHE President's Message

Dear OAAHE Current and Potential Members,

It is an exciting time for Oregon health educators. Our Oregon Legislature has, during the last 3 sessions, confirmed their commitment to the health and well being of all Oregon students (nutrition standards, anti-bullying, farm-to-school, self-carry medication, required PE minutes, coaches steroid education, required comprehensive sexuality education, OHES, and alcohol education). Nationally, we are facing a revision of the "No Child Left Behind" act that will reflect the importance, and undeniable connection between a child's health and that child's potential for academic success. Also, it looks likely that the current status of OAHPERD will change with the elimination of OAHE and OAPE, combining the separate organizations into one association that will represent all of Oregon's PE, health, recreation and dance teachers.

What does all this mean to the "field"? Well, first it means that through a stronger partnership of all Oregon professionals dedicated the health and wellbeing of all student's, the young people of Oregon can grow stronger, healthier, and become better prepared to face the challenges of adulthood. Second, OAHPERD can have a united voice at the legislative level to ensure a continued emphasis on Oregon's student health and wellbeing. And third, as an organization OAHPERD can continue to grow and serve a diverse population of educators who have been assigned the task of health, PE, recreation and dance education in our schools.

To this end, the OAHE Board of Directors has begun posting articles regarding the health education field. This month our contributors are: Tanya Fresindahl, Health and PE Specialist, Oregon Department of Education "*Oregon Department of Education Perspective on Health Education*"; Erica Jantzi, Junior at North Salem High School, "*All Students Need Comprehensive Wellness Education: Not Just "High Risk" Kids*"; and a note from Kari Stuhmer about the *Healthy Kids Learn Better Cadre*.

Enjoy the OAHE web site, tell others about it, submit articles for next month and most importantly, encourage your colleagues to join OAHPERD. Next month we will be listing an "All-Star" list of health education workshop presenters for the October OAHPERD Conference, West Salem High School. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Brad Victor  
Sexuality Education Program Specialist  
Oregon Department of Education  
President, OAHE