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**SOPHE JOURNALS EXAMINE NEW RESEARCH & PRACTICE
SOLUTIONS TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES**

TWO-PART WEBINAR SERIES TO FEATURE JOURNAL AUTHORS

Thousand Oaks, California, London, United Kingdom, and New Delhi, India (July 21, 2006) The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) released special issues of its two journals, Health Promotion Practice (HPP) and Health Education & Behavior (HEB), that feature innovative approaches to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. Reflecting the dynamic nexus of health education research and practice, the complementary peer-reviewed publications include invited papers and selected proceedings from SOPHE's inaugural summit, Health Disparities and Social Inequities: Framing a Transdisciplinary Research Agenda in Health Education, held last summer. SOPHE's publishing partner, SAGE Publications is sponsoring a free webinar series with the journals' editors and selected authors, scheduled July 25 and August 29. This webinar series is expected to further advance the dialogue and action on health disparities. To register for the webinar, please visit www.sophe.org.

A central theme among authors writing in HEB (August 2006) is that health disparities research defies any single investigative line of inquiry. Rather, a transdisciplinary approach is required whereby multiple disciplines provide the scientific framework for interventions, collaborations, and policies that address the highly complex, interactive factors contributing to health disparities.

"It is critical that we not only create our own research agenda," writes Stephen Gambescia, PhD, SOPHE President, "but also advocate that the health disparities issue receive attention from the funders of research, (both) private and public. This funding must include projects and initiatives that go beyond the traditional health services issues to the often-neglected preventive and community health education services."

Approaches to health funding, politics and policy that impact health disparities are chronicled in SOPHE's complementary issue of HPP (July 2006). Experts working on the front lines discuss approaches to improving health literacy, the challenges of engaging communities in social change to eliminate health disparities, and innovative mentoring programs to encourage a more diverse public health workforce.

An HPP supplement (July 2006), examines the innovative, community-driven Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH 2010) program. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), REACH 2010 involves community coalitions in the design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to address six major areas of health disparities. The HPP supplement examines selected REACH funded-programs with diverse U.S. communities that have demonstrated impressive results in decreasing health disparities and improving health outcomes.

"SOPHE is grateful to the esteemed authors and editorial boards of these three special journals," says SOPHE's Executive Director, Elaine Auld, MPH, CHES. "Their invaluable insights and scientific contributions to health education research and practice will help catalyze further progress toward the goal of eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities."

Additional information on the special journal collection and upcoming webcast series is available on SOPHE's website (www.sophe.org). To view the table of contents, abstracts, or purchase copies of the journals, see http://www.sagepublications.com/promos/1068104_sophe.html

SAGE Publications is pleased to partner with SOPHE to publish their journals, Health Promotion Practice (HPP) and Health Education & Behavior (HEB). To find out more about each journal, please visit their websites at <http://hpp.sagepub.com> and <http://heb.sagepub.com>.

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About SOPHE: SOPHE is a non-profit organization that provides leadership to the profession of public health education and contributes to the health of all people and the elimination of disparities through advances in health education theory and research, excellence in professional preparation and practice, and advocacy for public policies conducive to health. Published six times annually, HEB publishes authoritative and practical information on critical health issues for a broad range of professionals interested in understanding factors associated with health behavior, health status, and strategies to improve social and behavior health. HPP is a quarterly publication that publishes information of strategic importance to professionals engaged in the practice of developing, implementing, and evaluating health promotion and disease prevention programs.

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