

The HEALTH EDUCATION^{PAW}



Written by: Liberty Pandey

Volume: II Issue: III

Alumni Livewire

Abstinence-only education funding is back!

The recent health reform bill passed by Congress has revived the controversial abstinence-only education initiative by providing \$250 million over five years to support abstinence-until-marriage programs. The abstinence-only education initiative, also known as Title V, was created by Congress in 1996 under the Welfare Reform Act. It offered funding for programs that teach students exclusively about avoiding sex until marriage, without discussing safer sex tools such as using condoms.

During President George W. Bush's administration, abstinence-only programs received more than \$100 million per year in

federal funding and about \$50 million each year in state funding. This effort was criticized because independent evaluations concluded that the approach was ineffective, and evidence began to emerge that the long decline of teen pregnancies was reversing.

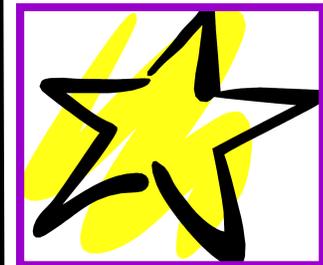
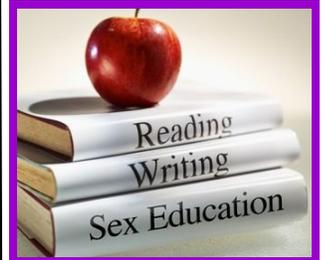
President Obama halted the funding when he assumed office in 2009. The new health care legislation includes \$75 million a year for five years for a new "personal responsibility education" program, which would fund programs that teach both abstinence and contraception. It also consists of an additional \$25 million for new, innovative approaches to abstinence-only programs.

Several grassroots organizations such as Advocates for Youth are outraged that abstinence-only programs are still getting funded when studies have demonstrated that they are ineffective. Censoring critical health information about contraception and condoms violate the rights of all young people to complete and accurate information. During these hard economic times, some believe that taxpayer money is wasted on unproductive programs.

Sources:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/26/AR2010032602457.html>

http://www.racewire.org/archives/2010/03/its_back_abstinence-only_funding_revived_in_health_bill.html



Health Education Office Updates

The Sexperts and Health Education have done it again. We had a successful and rewarding year, adding more awards to our achievements wall. Here is what we attained this past semester.

☺ ART4AIDS has been awarded **Outstanding Program** by the BACCHUS Network Area 10 Spring Conference 2010 in Boston, MA. Sexperts presented four different

programs at the BACCHUS Area 10 Conference:

Quickdraw, You Don't Know Jack About Sex, Aromatherapy Oils and Breathing.

☺ The Rainbow Center has awarded the Sexperts, **Outstanding Student Organization** as part of their annual Lavender Graduation awards. Lavender Graduation awards is an annual tradition

hosted across the country to honor outgoing LGBTQI members and award campus members who offer outstanding services and distinguished research. ☺ The Academic Affairs Committee of the Undergraduate Student Government awarded Joleen **Advisor of the Year, 2009-2010.**

**** Update Us!! We would love to know what you are doing so we can put you on our Alumni Page and in our next newsletter. Email us with updates at healthed@uconn.edu!!**

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Health Education Graduates 2009-2010

CONGRATULATIONS to all our graduates!! We wish you success and health in all your future endeavors.

- ☺ **Anna Deveau-Jalbert**
- ☺ **Ashley Esak**
- ☺ **Cleo Szmygiel**
- ☺ **Emily Blandford**
- ☺ **Julianne Ceruti**
- ☺ **Luke Russell**
- ☺ **Vu Tran**
- ☺ **Elena Gisler**

Julianne Ceruti plans to work at a nursery and garden center in Portland, CT. She is starting graduate school in audiology at the UCONN Communications Disorders department in Fall 2010.

Vu Tran will be pursuing a Master of Accounting during Summer and Fall 2010. He is starting as a staff auditor at Ernst and Young in January 2011.

Anna Deveau-Jalbert is starting graduate work at UConn for a Master of Music in Vocal Performance in Fall 2010. She will be working as a Teaching Assistant within the voice department.

In their own words:

In continuation to this section, here is what two other Alumni had to say about how Health Education has prepared and helped them to be where they are today.

Haley McCarthy: *"I could write a book on how Health Ed has helped me become the person I am and steer me to my current career interests. In short, Health Education's support and openness throughout my UConn experience helped me to become confident about following my interests and pursuing a career that I would find fulfilling and rewarding."*

Samati Niyomchai: *"Due to my time at Health Education, my professionalism is well above my peers and has served me well."*

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Elena Gisler will be interning at the Castleton Opera Festival in Virginia after completion of her current internship at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Cleo Szmygiel will be attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK for an MS in Zoology with a concentration in Parasitology in Fall 2010.

Emily Blandford is planning to work as a Hall Director in higher education to gain experience working with college students and young children, in pursuit of a Master of Education degree later on.

Luke Russell will be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia to begin a PhD in Human Development and Family Studies. Luke has been granted three competitive fellowships and will be receiving a teaching assistantship in an introductory HDFFS course as well as a research assistantship studying post-divorce family relationships.

Ashley Esak is participating in the Disney College program at Walt Disney World Resort for the summer following graduation. She will be attending St Joseph's College in West Hartford, CT as a graduate student in the Department of School Counseling.

**Congratulations! Felicidades! Felicitation! Badhai Chal
Chúc Mừng! Gratulacjel! Gratulasjonen!
Congratulazione! Glückwunsch!**

