



SIECUS

WINTER/SPRING 2013

DEVELOPMENTS

SIECUS Developments is the semiannual newsletter of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, a national nonprofit organization. Since 1964, SIECUS has been at the forefront of promoting comprehensive sexuality education for people of all ages and protecting the rights of individuals to make informed sexual and reproductive choices.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY IS
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 14TH IS
NATIONAL CONDOM DAY

MARCH IS
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 10TH IS
NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

APRIL IS
MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

APRIL IS
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION AWARENESS MONTH

MAY IS
TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

JUNE IS
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Monica Rodriguez

Even though it is wintery and cold, I see brighter skies ahead. The

November 2012 election results clearly demonstrate that our country is moving toward a more open, compassionate, and fair worldview. We have more progressive federal policymakers than ever before and the most diverse Congress in our nation's history. Policymakers at the federal level are finally beginning to reflect the electorate that put them into office. We believe this means good things for sexual and reproductive health issues.

Despite backlashes from those vocal, conservative few, the progressive majority has an agenda to move this country forward to ensure fairness, equality, security, and compassion. Marriage is legal for same-sex couples in nine states plus the District of Columbia. Several candidates ran their campaigns on defending such programs as Medicare and Social Security. Federal unemployment benefits were just recently extended because while the job market improves, it still hasn't filled the need of all of those searching for work. And the nation's challenging economic issues feed the current state of sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including HIV infection, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted

diseases, and sexual and reproductive health education program and service provision.

The enormous promise of opportunity is our greatest gift, and right now, I see this gift to not only be within our grasp, but can be reached sooner than expected. The most recent election gives us an opportunity to move our agenda forward as opposed to backwards. SIECUS will be working to educate and energize new members of Congress to take on sexual and reproductive health issues and re-ignite the spark of existing members of Congress who have already demonstrated such leadership. While budgets remain tight, we will be fighting to maintain the current level of funding for teen pregnancy prevention and sexuality education programs while keeping federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to a minimum. These will be our federal policy goals for the coming year. In addition, we will be working in states and communities to maximize federal and state dollars supporting the implementation of teen pregnancy prevention and sexuality education programs on the ground in classrooms throughout the country.

We've got our agenda. We've got our opportunity. Now we need your support to make it all happen. I hope we can count on you! 

HHS Announces Recipients of Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program, Title V Abstinence-Only Program, and Competitive Abstinence Education Grants

In September 2012, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 grantees for several programs in its Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention program. One of the grant programs, the Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program (C-PREP), provides funding for more comprehensive sexuality education programs. Two other programs also announced their grantees, the Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) Grant program and the Title V Abstinence-Only program. Both of those programs must adhere to the strict eight-point definition of “abstinence education” in Title V, Section 510 of the *Social Security Act*. As such, programs must exclusively teach the “social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity” and that “abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage [is] the expected standard for all school age children.”

The C-PREP grants were only available to public and private entities in states and territories that never received Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) funding. PREP is a mandatory funding stream that was created in 2010 as a part of health care reform legislation. The program provides grants to states to deliver complete, medically accurate, and age-appropriate sex education to young people in order to help them reduce their risk of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The program is designed to educate adolescents on both abstinence and

contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and STDs, including HIV/AIDS, as well as at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, adolescent development, financial literacy, educational and career success, and healthy life skills. The health care reform legislation contained a provision such that if a state did not apply for PREP in FY 2010 and FY 2011, organizations in those states became eligible to apply for their state’s share of funding for the remaining three years of the program. Thirty-seven public and private entities in the five states—Florida, Indiana, North Dakota, Texas, and Virginia—as well as three U.S. territories that did not apply for PREP funding in FY 2010 and 2011 received C-PREP grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$900,000.

The CAE program is \$5 million of dedicated discretionary funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that was included in the final FY 2012 federal appropriations legislation. While \$5 million represents a miniscule portion of the federal budget, history shows that such programs, once established, can expand rapidly. Only \$20 million was allocated for the original Community-Based Abstinence Education program (CBAE) when it was instituted in FY 2001, but its funding surpassed \$100 million only four years later. The nine programs that received the 24-month CAE grants “focus on those groups most likely to bear children out of wedlock, including youth, ages 10 to 19, who are homeless, in foster care, lie in rural areas or geographic areas with

high teen birth rates, or come from racial or ethnic minority groups.”

The Title V abstinence-only program is a mandatory funding stream that was included in health care reform legislation, after originally being allowed to expire on June 30, 2009. This extension equals a \$250 million allocation (\$50 million annually) for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to be available to states from FY 2010, the first year of the resurrected program, to FY 2014. While the program is more flexible than it was in previous years, funded programs must continue to teach abstinence to the exclusion of other topics and may in no way contradict the eight-point federal definition for “abstinence education.” A total of 36 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Federated States of Micronesia applied for and received Title V abstinence-only grants, totaling \$38,917,481.

While the C-PREP program uses taxpayer dollars to fund more comprehensive sex education programs that “educate young people on both abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS,” the two abstinence-only grant programs are using federal dollars to fund programs that have been proven ineffective. Congress continues to fund these ideologically driven programs despite clear evidence that federally funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs are not effective in stopping or even influencing adolescent sexual behavior. 

Election Results Favor Progressive Policymakers

The November 2012 election season was probably the most contentious in history. However, progressive policymakers came out on top with President Barack Obama winning re-election in both the popular vote and Electoral College vote, Democrats gaining two seats in the Senate, and while the Republican majority remained in the House, several seats were picked up by progressive Democrats. SIECUS is grateful to continue to do our work with the support of a pro-sexuality education, pro-choice, pro-marriage equality President

who values the lives, health, and rights of all individuals, as well as a more progressive Congress. We also applaud the defeat of several state and local initiatives that would have been damaging to individual sexual and reproductive health and rights. And we celebrate the citizens of the four new states affirming marriage equality. It was quite an election season and we can't wait to get to work in 2013 to advance comprehensive sexuality education programs, policies, and funding. ♻️

Become a Monthly SIECUS Supporter!

Can't make the large donation you'd like to all at once? Spread it out over the year instead.

Sign up for an automatic donation to be made to SIECUS each month securely charged to the credit card of your choice. You can sign up for this free service by visiting the SIECUS website at www.siecus.org and clicking on the **DONATE** button.

SIECUS' Online Resource for Teens and Young Adults

REMEMBER TO VISIT www.seriouslysexuality.com



5 WAYS

Five Ways You Can Educate a Young Person About Sexual and Reproductive Health

- 1 Get comfortable with talking about sexual and reproductive health.** If you are more comfortable talking about these issues, your child will be as well. For information and resources, visit the SIECUS website at www.siecus.org
- 2 Don't wait for your child to ask questions.** They may be too embarrassed or ashamed and never ask. Take the first step.
- 3 Be proactive—open the lines of communication early and check in with your child often.** They may not feel comfortable enough talking openly on your first try, so keep at it so they know you are approachable when they are ready.
- 4 Be reassuring.** The most important question a child may have, regardless of the specific issue, is "Am I normal?" The way you answer them may make the biggest impression of all.
- 5 Don't assume or pretend you know every answer to a question your child might have.** If you don't know, don't gloss over the issue. Tell them you are going to find out the answer for them and then do it!

NOTES FROM THE RESEARCH

In October 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a data analysis finding that in the United States, Hispanics or Latinos are disproportionately affected by HIV infection. In 2010, new diagnoses of HIV infection among Hispanics or Latinos occurred at an annual rate that was 2.8 times that of non-Hispanic whites (20.4 versus 7.3 per 100,000 persons). To further assess HIV infection among Hispanics or Latinos in the United States, CDC analyzed the geographic distribution of new diagnoses in 2010 in 46 states and Puerto Rico and the characteristics of those diagnosed. The results of this analysis determined that a lower percentage of infections were attributed to male-to-male sexual contact in Puerto Rico than in the 46 states (36.1% versus 66.5%) and a higher percentage were attributed to heterosexual contact (40.7% versus 22.0%) or injection-drug use (IDU) (20.4% versus 8.6%). In the 46 states, the rate of new diagnoses of HIV infection among Hispanics or Latinos in the Northeast Census region in 2010 (55.0 per 100,000 persons) was more than twice as high as in other regions, and a higher percentage of those with a new HIV diagnosis were born in Puerto Rico or had their HIV infection attributed to IDU, compared with other regions. The CDC recommends that geographic differences in HIV infection among Hispanics or Latinos should be addressed with HIV testing, prevention, and treatment efforts tailored to specific communities.

Standards, Standoffs, and the Hidden Curriculum: A Summary Report on Sexuality Education Controversies, 2011-2012

In September 2012, SIECUS released its annual summary report of sexuality education controversies. The report for the 2011-2012 school year is entitled “Standards, Standoffs, and the Hidden Curriculum.”

The ‘hidden curriculum’ of sexuality education is the totality of all intended and unintended learning experiences (what is taught as well as what is observed by students). For this reason, SIECUS’ annual summary for 2011-2012 covers several issues which at first glance may not appear to be “sex education,” yet are part of young people’s total learning experiences about their sexuality.

For example, this past year, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play was deemed unfit for California’s Palm Desert High School because of its references to sex, homosexuality, alcohol, and its characters’ use of profanity. Tennessee Williams’ *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, originally written in 1955, became a movie seen by millions in 1958. When questioned about the decision to ban a play written over 60 years ago, Palm Desert’s principal cited budgetary reasons; however, the budget for the play had already been approved at the start of the school year. Students and the theater teacher suggested that budget was less of an issue than sexual expression.

And across the country, a survey called the Prevention Needs Assessment divided parents of public school students in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Intended to gather information on risk behaviors of 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, the survey included questions

asking whether students had ever experienced oral, anal, and vaginal intercourse. One parent of a middle school student framed his disapproval in these terms: “Sixth and eighth graders are going to read these words and come home and ask what they mean.”

Parents could opt their child out of the questionnaire, but opponents were not satisfied with this provision. As a result, the school district bowed to opponents by removing the sexual behavior questions from the 6th grade survey.

Further, Gardasil, the vaccine to prevent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), continued to ignite opposition around state-level mandates requiring its availability. When first introduced in 2006 following approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, opponents argued that Gardasil would promote teen sexual activity; this fear continued to drive opposition in some communities during the 2011-2012 school year. In tandem with opponents of comprehensive sexuality education, anti-vaccine groups also denounced Gardasil, exaggerating sporadic reports of side effects.

And in an almost laughable moment, Cherry Knoll Elementary School in Traverse City, Michigan altered the lyrics of “Deck the Halls” to remove the word ‘gay.’ During rehearsals for the school’s Christmas concert, students giggled at the lyric “Don we now our gay apparel,” prompting the teacher to issue censored song sheets. The revision, “Don we now our *bright* apparel,” did not pass muster with school administration; the original

Continued on page 7

SIECUS SALUTES!

Gifts made in honor of an individual can commemorate a birthday or anniversary, recognize the work of someone special, memorialize a special person, or celebrate the holidays.

Below are recent gifts to SIECUS for the period of September 2012 – January 2013 from special people to special people.

- Peggy Brick in honor of Melanie Davis
- Patti Britton in honor of Holliday
- Robin Burdulis in memory of Adolphe Burdulis
- Peggy and Ken Calestro in honor of Jason Osher and Monica Rodriguez
- Dr. Michael Carrera in memory of Bobbi Whitney
- Lynn D. Covarrubias in memory of Sylvia DeWoskin
- Richard Derrickson in memory of Doris B. Derrickson
- Robert Gelfand in honor of Alexandra Gelfand
- Rev. Debra Haffner in memory of Dr. Douglas Kirby
- Ajay Kori in honor of Barbara Libove
- Dr. Darrel Lang in memory of John B. Peters
- Patricia and Stephen Levee in memory of Solomon Nahum
- Adam S. Libove in honor of Barbara Libove
- Alan and Laura Libove in honor of Barbara Libove
- Jan Lunquist in honor of Maggi Boyer and Monica Rodriguez
- Ryan Mattison in honor of Barbara Libove
- Konstance McCaffree in memory of Elizabeth Ann Edmonds
- Suzanne McMahan in honor of Barbara Libove
- Kenneth Monteiro and Leo Blackman in honor of Stephen Russell
- Jason Osher and Richard Schubel in memory of Dora Eloy
- Jason Osher in honor of Richard Schubel
- Anjali Patel in honor of Barbara Libove
- Frank and Dora Rodriguez in honor of Monica Rodriguez
- Cynthia Lief Ruberg in honor of Robert Birch, Ph.D.
- Victor and Marion Schoenbach in memory of Frances Rubens Schoenbach
- Monte Steinman in honor of Jason Osher
- Peter J. Vennewitz in honor of Vivian Lee
- Sarah Whitlock in honor of Barbara Libove
- Joseph Wilson and Candace Rappaport in honor of Barbara Libove
- Jennifer Yang in honor of Barbara Libove

Please consider honoring someone special in your life with a gift to SIECUS.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The American Family Association (AFA), a conservative evangelical group, criticized the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) annual Mix it Up at Lunch Day, a nationwide event to promote tolerance in schools. Mix It Up at Lunch Day uses school cafeterias as a forum to break up social cliques, oppose bullying, and promote tolerance. AFA denounced the event, now in its 11th season, as "a nationwide push to promote the homosexual lifestyle in public schools."

SPLC surveys identified the cafeteria as the place where students feel social divisions and cliques are most apparent. AFA accused SPLC of creating Mix It Up at Lunch Day to promote acceptance of homosexuality in public schools and of oppressing Christian students by prohibiting them opportunities to express their disapproval of homosexuality.

While approximately 200 schools, citing calls from upset parents, chose to dodge controversy and avoided participating in Mix It Up at Lunch Day, an additional 400 registered, bringing the total number of participants to approximately 2,800 schools nationwide. 2012's Mix It Up Day took place on November 13th.

Make an online donation to SIECUS by going to www.siecus.org
Look for the **Support SIECUS!**
Make Sexuality Education Available to All box with the **DONATE NOW!** Button.

FEELING BOARD

Feeling Board is SIECUS' way to introduce you to the members of our board of directors. Members come from throughout the United States. The diverse perspectives, experiences, and talents each board member brings helps to make SIECUS the vibrant organization it is today.

In this issue, we feature SIECUS Board member **Dr. Lawrence D'Angelo**.

Please meet Dr. Lawrence D'Angelo



How did you first learn about SIECUS? My connection to SIECUS dates back to 1982 when as a new faculty member I was looking for educational materials for my patients. I heard of this organization that had great educational materials and I wrote them. Within 72 hours I had exactly what I needed to help me

create an educational program for my staff as well as my patients.

What brought you to the SIECUS board of directors? For years I've admired everything SIECUS has done. I've been a willing donor and dedicated friend of SIECUS. When I was approached, I was so honored and excited that I think I answered the initial invitation in 30 seconds. That's what you call an "over-committed fan."

Why do you think that SIECUS is important? SIECUS has been and continues to be a strong and consistent voice for appropriate reproductive health education in this country. It is the ultimate "institutional survivor" after so many years of vitriolic opposition. It has remained strong, consistent, and proud, a metaphor for all of us interested in reproductive health.

How does SIECUS' work help you in your life? First and foremost, SIECUS has inspired me. Secondly, SIECUS has educated me. Finally, SIECUS has made me proud of the work I've chosen to do and introduced me to the absolutely most wonderful colleagues.

What advice would you give to other supporters of SIECUS for ways to help the organization and its mission? Assuming that most of us are supporters of excellence in reproductive health services and education, I would advise supporters that they should never underestimate the impact of this organization. It has been and continues to be the alpha and the omega of institutional commitment to providing information and education concerning reproductive health information. I am so proud to be associated with them and all our supporters should feel the same way. 

Congress Averts Fiscal Cliff and Delays Automatic Cuts

On January 2, 2013, the last day of the 112th Congress, President Obama signed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (H.R. 8), the "fiscal cliff bill." After multiple rounds of negotiations and political theater throughout the lame duck session, the bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate the previous day by votes of 257 to 167 in the House and 89 to 8 in the Senate. The bill extends

multiple tax cuts and credits and delays sequestration – the 8% across-the-board funding cuts that were set to go into effect on January 2, 2013 – until March 1, 2013. Additionally, fiscal year (FY) 2013 total discretionary budget caps were decreased, though it remains unclear how this will impact final FY 2013 appropriations amounts, particularly for teen pregnancy-, HIV/AIDS-, and STD-prevention programs. In

the end, the "fiscal cliff bill" did not address the \$1.2 trillion over 10 years in savings that is necessary to avoid sequestration and avoid another round of negotiations related to raising the national debt limit. The 113th Congress, sworn in on January 3, 2013, will need to address both of these, as well as pass FY 2013 appropriations for the remaining six-months of the fiscal year, all within the first three months of the year. 

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Standards, Standoffs, and the Hidden Curriculum...

Continued from page 4

lyrics were restored at the order of the Cherry Knoll principal following complaints from parents. The principal noted that the teacher should have addressed the situation as a teachable moment: "We have an anti-bullying and discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and so going forward the teacher will be addressing this is how we're supposed to be reacting, this is the way to be respectful about this."

For two decades, SIECUS has tracked and analyzed thousands of sexuality education controversies. By highlighting select examples from states across the nation, our annual report aims to illustrate and explain trends in sexuality education that SIECUS has monitored during the most recent school year. To view the full 2011-2012 controversy report, please visit the SIECUS website at www.siecus.org or go directly to: <http://www.siecus.org/document/docWindow.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewDocument&documentid=105&documentFormatId=116> 

Information is
everything.

And that's
a fact of life.



SIECUS

Sexuality Information and Education
Council of the United States

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www.SIECUS.org

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SIECUS Developments is a semiannual publication of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. Founded in 1964, SIECUS affirms that sexuality is a fundamental part of being human, one that is worthy of dignity and respect. We advocate for the right of all people to accurate information, comprehensive education about sexuality, and sexual health services. SIECUS works to create a world that ensures social justice and sexual rights.

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Plan It!

Planned gifts are a sensible way to have a lasting social impact through the organizations you care about most. There are many benefits to making a planned gift to SIECUS, including making a larger charitable gift than you thought possible; providing inheritances for your heirs at a reduced tax cost; reducing your income tax and/or avoiding capital gains tax; diversifying your investment portfolio; and leaving a charitable legacy for future generations.

There are several planned giving opportunities that would help secure the critical work of SIECUS for years to come.

Bequests • Life Insurance

Retirement Plan Assets • Trusts

Your lawyer or financial advisor can help you take the next step toward making a planned gift to SIECUS and investing in a sexually healthy future for all.

If you need any additional information or assistance, please don't hesitate to call Jason Osher, chief operating officer at SIECUS, at 212.819.9770, extension 319.