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Editor's Note

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Addressed in this issue are the following topics which can have a tremendous impact on health occupations programs: career development of individuals, needs of teachers, profile of enrollments, content in curriculum, and providing special learning experiences for students. Also, several book reviews are included.

In relation to career development Southern and Walters provide information on some factors that influence the chosen health career by individuals. Interventions that include decision aids and implications for educators are also presented.

Gable conducted a needs assessment of teachers in one state to determine what specific technical knowledges and skills were self-perceived to be possessed or needed. Curriculum theorists have advocated the identification of needs as a tool for student commitment as well as the identification of content. As Gable indicates, preservice and inservice, continuing professional education programs, and university offerings can be planned once the needs are identified.

Similarly, Haire-Joshu, Funnell, and Warren-Boulton identify content to be included in nursing programs. By identifying content and whether information is being delivered in the appropriate setting, the authors provide several recommendations for improvement of nursing programs which are a vital component in the health care industry.

Richards presents a profile of secondary health occupations education in Pennsylvania for the last five years. By examining this data, trends and issues become more apparent and provide a framework for identifying future priorities to meet the current shortage of health care workers. The shortage poses a serious threat to the ability of health care facilities to provide critical services to citizens.

Snell presents information on involving students in developing an instructional videotape to provide interesting and worthwhile instruction. The rationale uses a discovery method of teaching the course content and provides a resource about the elderly for use in secondary health occupations programs by state specialists in New Jersey.

Other authors provide a review of books for current teachers. The reviewers and titles of books include: (a) Hackney, "Diversified Health Occupations"; (b) Winegar, "Health Occupations Exploration and Career Planning"; (c) Patterson, "Homemaker-Home Health Aide"; and (d) Ziegler, "Geriatric Nursing Assistant: Advanced Training and Selected Competencies ."

The foregoing articles and reviews provide an abundance of information to our readers. The information will assist teachers, educators, and administrators with program and instructional planning and execution.

Norma Walters,
Editor

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