Editor's Note

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In response to directions from the previous president and the Board, teachers, teacher educators, and supervisors joined together to adopt a common philosophy, national certification standards, and program standards. The previous issue reported on the philosophy and certification standards. In this issue, Rzonca, Snider, and Bixby report on program standards for health occupations education. Durgin-Clinchard, Witmer, and Brown give us a better understanding of the status of HIV/AIDS policies in postsecondary health occupations education programs. Sandiford provides a profile of the student organization. House reports on job satisfaction factors among nurse aides in long term care facilities while Moore reviews a textbook for nursing assistants.

Rzonca, Snider, and Bixby note a high level of agreement for the standards and their component areas. The authors recommend adoption of the standards by the Health Occupations Education Policy Board. Future activities should be directed to the identification of criteria by which the standards and their respective components could be evaluated.

Postsecondary health occupation programs in Nebraska were surveyed by Durgin-Clinchard, Witmer, and Brown in regard to their policies on HIV/AIDS. Based on criteria developed from those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the American College Health Association, they found that submitted HIV/AIDS policies did not meet criteria developed for the study. The authors recommend that governing bodies and administrators take a proactive approach in HIV/AIDS policy development, implementation, and scheduled review to prevent litigation.

Little research is available in the literature about Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Sandiford field tested an instrument designed to identify the characteristics and attitudes of students attending the 1990 National Leadership Conference. While only a convenience sample is represented, the respondents represent several states, a wide range of students with both officers and competitive events participants, and several first time attendees.

House studied the relationships between selected work related factors and their impact on job satisfaction/dissatisfaction, and the high turnover rates of nurse assistants in long term care facilities. Recognition, the work itself, responsibility, and the possibility of growth served as sources of satisfaction while salary, technical supervision, company policies, interpersonal relationships with peers, security, status, and personal life contributed to job dissatisfaction.

A book review by Moore provides an excellent textbook or resource for teachers of nursing assistants. A workbook is available and complements the text.

Beverly Richards
Managing Editor