

**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

OCTOBER IS  
**LET'S TALK MONTH**

OCTOBER 11TH  
**NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY**

DECEMBER 1ST  
**WORLD AIDS DAY**

## MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Does your company match your charitable contributions? If so, send your company's matching gift form with your donation to SIECUS.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Monica Rodriguez

It amazes me to think that SIECUS' 49th year is coming to a close and we

are embarking on our 50th year of operations! I could not be more proud to be the President of SIECUS at this milestone in our organization's history.

When SIECUS' journey first began with our founding in 1964, Dr. Mary Steichen Calderone, the former medical director of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and her colleagues had no idea what was in store. Since that time, our work has helped achieve some major social, governmental, and legislative advancements. SIECUS led the charge resulting in a shift in society's understanding that sexuality education of some sort must be provided in schools. SIECUS helped shift the public debate about whether or not to provide sexuality education in schools to one over which topics should be covered in these programs.

Fast forward to today. In 2013, we've made notable progress toward advancing our strategic priorities and moving our agenda forward at the national, state, and local levels. Some highlights to date follow below.

- In the first half of fiscal year 2013, SIECUS focused our state-level efforts on key states including Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi,

New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Virginia. We partnered with advocates and educators to provide intensive technical and capacity-building assistance through conference calls, e-mail exchanges, and in-person meetings with advocates and educators.

- Inspired and supported by SIECUS, the Lawrence (KS) Public Schools fully adopted the *National Sexuality Education Standards* in May 2013, impacting more than 10,000 students in this growing district.
- In January, partners in Mississippi alerted SIECUS to a newly introduced "sexual risk avoidance" bill, one that would unravel the progressive work that has been done in the state over the past two years. SIECUS shared potential strategies to counter the bill with partners in the state as well as national partners. Ultimately the bill died in committee.
- SIECUS joined the New York Women's Equality Coalition, newly formed in March and made up of over 500 groups throughout the state in support of Governor Cuomo's Women's Equality Agenda.

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## Message from the President

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- In Ohio, SIECUS assisted the Collaborative for Comprehensive School-Age Health with planning a retreat for Ohio Youth Advocates, which took place in March 2013. SIECUS delivered a peer


education training for a group of young people and participated by conference call in the quarterly meetings of the Collaborative. Further, in April, the House Finance Committee adopted last minute changes to the state budget restricting sex education, mandating an abstinence-only approach. Advocates alerted SIECUS to this development and through social media strategies, including awareness campaigns on Facebook and Twitter, followers were urged to contact Ohio's Governor and encouraged to express their sentiments about the provision. Because of an immediate and overwhelmingly negative response by advocates, lawmakers quickly removed the abstinence-only provision from the budget.

- SIECUS cosponsored State Summit VII in June 2013. Ninety participants from across the United States gathered in Washington, DC to build upon their successes

in moving comprehensive sexuality education forward. SIECUS staff facilitated and presented two plenaries and led the advocacy day on Capitol Hill.

- SIECUS participated as a core staff member of the North Carolina Training Institute in Sexual Health Education in July 2013. Over 30 educators from across North Carolina participated in this week-long, residential sexual health education training program.
- The Real Education for Healthy Youth Act (REHYA) was reintroduced in the House and Senate in February 2013. REHYA has been a key legislative vehicle for SIECUS as we build greater support among members of Congress for sexuality education programs and funding.
- We developed a database of sexuality education-related controversies tracked by SIECUS from 1993 through 2012. Over 500 controversies during the period 1993-2012 have been documented and are currently being analyzed to produce a report that will be released in the fall of 2013.

This year, we've made enormous strides in the face of sequestration, a stalled Congress, a national financial crisis, and the growing demand for SIECUS' trainings and workshops, advocacy expertise, resources, and strategy guidance at the national, state, and local levels.

I hope we can count on you to keep up with this growing demand and realize even greater achievements in the year ahead! 

### 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](http://www.siecus.org) and clicking on the DONATE button.

### 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 February 2013 – August 2013 from special people to special people.**

- Carol Jochowitz in memory of Annette T. Rubenstein
- Konnie McCaffree in memory of Elizabeth Edmunds
- Ginny Rosenberg in memory of Bobbie Whitney
- Stephen Russell and Scott Neeley in memory of Dora Eloy
- Richard Schubel in honor of Jason Osher
- Dr. Angela Weaver in honor of Michael Feldman
- Judith A. Williams in honor of Lisa Graustein

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


# Historic Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage Cases by the U.S. Supreme Court

June 26, 2013 marked a historic day when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 on *United States v. Windsor*, striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) on the grounds of equal protection. The case was brought by Edie Windsor, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the law firm Paul Weiss, challenging Section 3 of DOMA which required her to pay \$363,000 in estate taxes after her partner and spouse of over 40 years passed away. Had she been in a heterosexual marriage, she would not have had to pay the estate tax.

In the majority opinion, Justice Kennedy wrote:

“DOMA singles out a class of persons deemed by a State entitled to recognition and protection to enhance their own liberty. It imposes a disability on the class by refusing to acknowledge a status the State finds to be dignified and proper. DOMA instructs all federal officials, and indeed all persons with whom same-sex couples interact, including their own children, that their marriage

is less worthy than the marriages of others. The federal statute is invalid, for no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and to injure those whom the State, by its marriage laws, sought to protect in personhood and dignity. By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute is in violation of the Fifth Amendment.”

The DOMA ruling provides access to over 1,000 federal benefits for legally married same-sex couples, including veterans’ benefits, family medical leave, tax benefits, and Social Security benefits. At this time, 15 states (including California after the Prop 8 ruling) recognize same-sex marriage, while more than 30 states have laws or constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. There is still great progress to be made for national marriage equality, but this landmark decision by the Supreme Court will now serve as one of the best arguments for marriage equality at the state level. 

## 5 WAYS Five Ways You Can Help Reduce New HIV Infections in Your Community

**1** Get tested for HIV and encourage others to get tested.

**2** Call, write, and visit your political leaders to get them to make commitments to HIV prevention, including comprehensive sexuality education in schools.

**3** Encourage local religious leaders to talk to their congregations about HIV/AIDS.

**4** Engage your local media outlets by writing letters to the editor, op-eds, and newsletter articles about HIV/AIDS.

**5** Volunteer at your local HIV/AIDS or community health service organization.



**SIECUS**

Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the United States

REMEMBER TO VISIT THE SIECUS WEBSITE:

[www.SIECUS.org](http://www.SIECUS.org)



## NOTES FROM THE RESEARCH

Sexual activity is and has long been rare among the youngest adolescents, according to "Sexual Initiation, Contraceptive Use and Pregnancy Among Young Adolescents," by Lawrence B. Finer and Jesse M. Philbin of the Guttmacher Institute, published in the journal *Pediatrics* in May 2013. Very few young adolescents (both boys and girls) have had penile-vaginal intercourse (0.6% of 10-year-olds, 1.1% of 11-year-olds, and 2.4% of 12-year-olds), and the incidence of pregnancy among girls aged 12 or younger is minuscule. But adolescence is a time of rapid change, and sexual intercourse is more common among older teens, including one-third (33%) of those aged 16, nearly half (48%) of those aged 17, and 61% and 71% of 18- and 19-year-olds, respectively. A low rate of sexual intercourse among young adolescents has long been the norm, while sexual initiation later in adolescence has been and remains a normal part of teens' development process.


Importantly, the analysis also found that sexual intercourse among very young adolescents is frequently involuntary. The authors argue that coerced sexual activity warrants attention and suggest that pediatricians and adolescent health professionals are in an ideal position to screen for unwanted sexual activity among patients of all ages.

## SIECUS STATE PROFILES:

# A Portrait of Sexuality Education and Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in the States (Fiscal Year 2011 Edition)



*SIECUS State Profiles* represents the most complete portrait ever assembled of sexuality education and abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in the United States. *SIECUS State Profiles* Fiscal Year 2011 Edition includes an individual profile for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the other U.S. Territories. It is intended to serve as a guide and major resource for advocates, educators, policymakers,

public health professionals, parents, youth, and community stakeholders across the country who are working to advance more comprehensive approaches to sexuality education and eliminate harmful abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. This ninth edition includes information from federal Fiscal Year 2011, which began on October 1, 2010 and ended on September 30, 2011. To access your state's profile, visit [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org). 

## SIECUS' Online Resource for Teens and Young Adults

REMEMBER TO VISIT [www.seriouslysexuality.com](http://www.seriouslysexuality.com)



# Putting the ‘Pro’ in Programs: Research Shows Teacher Preparation Matters in Sex Ed

Using data from the 2006 School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) to learn more about the connection between high-quality sexual health education and health teacher professional preparation, researchers published “Influence of Professional Preparation and Class Structure on Sexuality Topics Taught in Middle and High School,” *Journal of School Health* (May 2013). Using a nationally representative sample of more than 89,000 U.S. middle- and high-school teachers of health, the researchers sought to determine whether sexual health topics were more likely to be taught 1) when teachers had a college degree in health education or public health, and 2) when classes were devoted solely to health education rather than combined with physical education (PE) or some other topic. Sexual health topics of interest for the study included the teaching of abstinence, human development, dating/relationships, sexual identity/orientation, condoms, influence of family on sexual behaviors, and influence of media. A total of 13 sexual health topics were included in the analysis. Key findings follow.

- The majority of the teachers (62%) were NOT professionally prepared (i.e. did not have a health education or public health degree).
- Nearly half of all classes (46%) combined health education with PE or some other topic.
- Teachers who were not professionally prepared taught three of the 13 topics (condoms, condom efficacy, and sexual identity/orientation) only 50% or less of the time.

- Professionally-prepared teachers were significantly more likely to teach 7 of the 13 sexual health topics as compared to those who were not professionally prepared.


Sexuality education stands a greater chance of being taught more comprehensively when it is taught in classes solely devoted to health education (not combined with physical education) and by teachers with formal preparation in health education or public health. The researchers drew from a rich data source – the 2006 SHPPS, a study made possible with support from the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings support the need for formal teacher preparation in health and sexuality to ensure that more sexual health topics are covered in middle and high school classrooms. The researchers note that even among professionally-prepared educators, the percentage of those teaching about condoms or sexual identity/orientation proved alarmingly low in 2006. Little has occurred since then to suggest that the percentages have changed.

It is important to remember that in 2006, the year this data was gathered, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in public schools were at their peak in terms of funding and political support, especially at the federal level. Opposition to more comprehensive sexuality education was robust in 2006, with the result that the educational climate had chilled in many states and local school districts with regard to teaching potentially controversial sexual health topics. Although much progress has occurred since then to roll-back fear- and shame-based abstinence-only programs in schools,

there is little evidence that teacher preparation trends since 2006 have improved as a result.

The researchers have confirmed another important factor – often driven by fiscal policies in school districts – affecting the delivery of sexuality education in public schools: stand-alone health classes are often sacrificed to combined classes that add PE or other topics (e.g. career counseling) and therefore reduce opportunities to teach more comprehensively.

Advocates for high-quality, effective sexuality education can use the findings of this study to argue for better policies and more resources to support the professional preparation of teachers. They can also use the findings to argue for keeping health classes and health teacher preparation separate from PE, and *equal* to PE in importance for the education and development of U.S. youth. 

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Sexuality education in Colorado schools has received a revamp! In May 2013, Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper signed a law that creates new statewide standards for teaching about sexuality that is inclusive of both abstinence and safer sex. Parents would be required to opt out their children from instruction if so desired, instead of the current requirement that they approve participation for their children.

The new sex education standards also create a grant program to help schools secure funds to implement expanded instruction if they choose. Republicans in the Legislature unsuccessfully opposed the sex education bill because they said the measure infringes on local control.

# 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 **Ralph S. Chartier**.

## Please meet Ralph S. Chartier



**How did you first learn about SIECUS?** I first learned about SIECUS when I was teaching at a private boarding school in Connecticut for 5th – 9th graders. The school did not have a sexuality education program, which, as you can imagine, was a huge problem. I joined with a science teacher who shared my passion for comprehensive sex education in schools and worked on developing a curriculum. The


headmaster of the school was very supportive, as long as we designed the program based on “the facts,” as he liked to put it. We did some research and discovered SIECUS and the amazing tools they had available.

**What brought you to the SIECUS board of directors?** A colleague and dear friend, with whom I have done a lot of work in the sexual minority community around sexuality, gender identity, and HIV, is on the SIECUS Board and asked if I would be interested. I thought it was a great opportunity to further my work in the field, as well as support an organization with a mission I whole-heartedly support.

**Why do you think that SIECUS is important?** I know that SIECUS is important because there is still so much misinformation out there about sexuality and sexual health issues. The fact that there remain a huge number of public schools in our country who provide abstinence-only programs, and that public dollars go into this type of inadequate misinformation, emphasizes the need for SIECUS. On a personal level, I have a lot of family and friends who need help talking with their children about sex and sexuality in a positive way, and the tools provided by SIECUS are a great resource for

them, once they become sick of me talking about it. Uncle Ralphie can't fly over the country to have “The Talk” with all of their kids!

**How does SIECUS' work help you in your life?** SIECUS provides valuable resources for those who need something concrete, written in black and white, to educate about something that is not so black and white – sex. The organization works to educate and influence policymakers in a way many of us do not have the time or skill set to do. And, SIECUS looks to accomplish these things in a rational, professional, and research-based manner.

**What advice would you give to other supporters of SIECUS for ways to help the organization and its mission?** I think the most powerful thing people can do is talk. Talk about the issues. Visit the organization's website, [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org), on a regular basis to remain current on SIECUS' work. Discuss these issues with your friends, family, and co-workers. Don't be afraid to normalize conversations about sex, sexuality, and gender. Be educated and sex-positive in your own life, and refer people to SIECUS who share your interests in this issue. And remind people of the “Donate Now” button on the website! 

Make an online donation to SIECUS by going to [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org)  
Look for the  
**Support SIECUS!**  
Make Sexuality Education  
Available to All box with the  
**DONATE NOW! Button.**



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## Congratulations to SIECUS Board Member, Dr. Nadia Dowshen



SIECUS Board Member, Dr. Nadia Dowshen, Director of Adolescent HIV Services, Division of Adolescent Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine was awarded with the **American Academy of HIV Medicine/Institute for Technology in Health Care HIV Practice Award** recognizing innovative

use of technology in the HIV care setting. Dr. Dowshen and her team developed a prototype of a smart phone-based application to improve treatment adherence among youth living with HIV/AIDS. The "app" includes text message reminders, time-based personalized reminders that are responsive to previous behavior, and prompt patient-provider interaction when poor adherence is identified. 

Check out SIECUS' 2012 Annual Report at [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org)





## SIECUS DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMER/FALL 2013

**Monica Rodriguez**, President & CEO  
**Jason I. Osher**, Chief Operating Officer

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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.

### SIECUS

90 John Street, Suite 402  
New York, NY 10038  
Phone: 212-819-9770 Fax: 212-819-9776

1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 107  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202-265-2405 Fax: 202-462-2340

E-mail: [siecus@siecus.org](mailto:siecus@siecus.org)  
[www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org)

## 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.**