



Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

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Traditionally, continuing social work education has served the purpose of narrowing the gap between the practitioner and the advances uncovered in academia. Increasingly, it is the practitioner who, in collaboration with the academic, has been in the forefront of innovation and discovery. The articles in this issue represent a significant element of collaboration leading to new arenas for practice.

The article concerning the border issues represents a relatively new initiative in both social work and continuing education and is a primarily discussion regarding the international condition in the United States and worldwide. Mathiesen, et al, take the readers across the border for a look at a developmental model for international engagement in social and developmental needs of countries close to our border. The article, *At the Border*, is a case study detailing a continuing education response created by a unique environment in the California-Mexican region.

Two articles discussing technological advances – though more common in literature today – are still relatively new but have become increasingly integral to both social work practice and education. Kleinpeter and Potts report a three-year distance education effort utilizing multi-interactive methods. This article continues to build on the many efforts for the utilization of technology in continuing social work education. *CE Online* by Dezendorf, Green and Krul details a comprehensive chronology and developmental growth of the utilization of online technology to enhance the impact of online education. The authors present a thoughtful and helpful series of recommendations for reacting to and utilizing this technology.

In response to the growth of family support programs, Kellie Reed-Ashcraft, et al, created an

information system both to manage and evaluate their family support program. Based in a state university and designed to meet the state interest, this outcome-focused training targeted a multi-level staff-training cohort. The authors report that the training was well received and provide suggestions for future training in the area of family support.

The long-term debate in the Criminal Justice community concerning treatment versus incarceration is presented with clarity and insight by Hohman, Weisner and Chalmers in their article entitled *Implementing Policy Change: Assessing Training Needs in Addictions Treatment and Criminal Justice Collaborative*. A training needs assessment, which involved 57 collaborative teams, was conducted to determine concerns in policy implementation and training needs. Collaboration between the multiple agencies involved in this program was a major requirement for successful outcomes.

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The June 2004 issue of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on-line publication, *Children's Bureau Express*, highlighted our double issue on child welfare [Vol. 6, Nos. 1-2] that received much acclaim from our subscribers. Access to the journal's highlight on their Web site can be found at <http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov> under the heading "Promising Practices" with the sub-heading "Addressing the Staffing Crisis in Child and Family Services."

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