

Current Trend and Future Direction of School Physical Education in the United States

Prof. Dr. Ron Feingold
Former President, AAHPERD & AIESEP
Former Dean, Ruth S. Ammon School of Education
Dept. Chair, Health Studies, Physical Education & Human Performance Sciences
Adelphi University
USA
E-mail: feingold@adelphi.edu



Abstract: Physical Education Teacher Preparation has not really changed much in the last fifty years. The discipline has tended to spend its time discussing re-structure issues at the national level, turf issues at the disciplinary level, and narrow focused scholarly endeavors at the higher education level. This presentation will offer future directions that connect our profession, our discipline and our scholarship to a more significant role in serving our profession and our society. When one considers our profession and disciplines, we have a potential impact on individuals from birth to death. In order to have such an impact we have to better connect our sub-disciplines, schools and community. It would appear that there is a need for more multi-disciplinary, collaborative program development and research on problems and issues in our society. Obesity, inactivity, school and community violence, drugs and disrespect of persons differing from themselves, are just a few issues.

Prof. Dr. Ron Feingold is Chair of the Department of Health Studies, Physical Education & Human Performance Science at Adelphi University. For the past five years, he had served as the Dean of the Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, where he administered over twenty-five teacher education programs, an early child learning center, a parenting institute, and clinics in adult fitness, literacy, reading, learning disabilities, audiology, and speech therapy. Although the past five years, as dean, has been very successful in achieving NCATE national accreditation and receiving the largest donation (eight and one half million dollars), in university history, plus the development of an annual conference on Peace and Human Rights with the United Nations, he chose to return to his passion and go back as a faculty member and department chair in Health Studies, Physical Education & Human Performance Science. Dr. Feingold is a past president of AAHPERD, AIESEP, NAPEHE, EDA and NYSAHPERD. Author of approximately forty articles, two books and five monographs, however, his most significant publication was his “adult role paper” a report for the New York State Education Department showing the importance of health and physical education in the schools in development of adult behaviors. He has made numerous national and state presentations, plus twenty – five international in over fifteen countries, and received highest honors, including the Dowling Award from the American Heart Association, the Gulick Award from AAHPERD, the Tilia Fantasia Award from EDA, and the Gold Cross Award from FIEP. His most memorable recognition, however, came from NYSAHPERD, when they announced in 2004 the Ron S. Feingold lecture to be held each year at their annual State Conference.