

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **National Community Education Association (NCEA) Applied Professional Program Leadership Endorsement (APPLE) Adopted by NCEA Board, April 2003 Revised June 2005**

#### **Statement of Purpose**

The National Community Education Association's (NCEA) Applied Professional Program Leadership Endorsement (APPLE) was adopted in 2003 to provide a process in which individuals who are responsible for organizing programs are able to document, demonstrate, and articulate their competencies as professional program leaders. Individuals voluntarily completing this national endorsement process, measured by rigorous standards and performance based assessments, will earn recognition for their completion of the endorsement process.

There is a direct correlation between lifelong learning and practical experience and the endorsement process is centered on a combination of professionalism, expertise, and excellence. Recipients of this endorsement possess a significant depth and breadth of understanding program philosophy and principles, as well as a strong practical knowledge base for daily application. The successful candidates are truly considered among the best in the nation for their chosen profession of providing program leadership.

The Applied Professional Program Leadership Endorsement offers a number of benefits to both the individual and to the profession. A few of the benefits include:

#### **Benefits to the Individual:**

1. Enhances opportunities for career advancement in the field of lifelong learning;
2. Provides a nationally recognized form of endorsement for individuals who wish to validate their competencies and experiences;
3. Recognizes an individual as having attained critical competencies central to the development and implementation of lifelong learning opportunities for community members.

#### **Benefits to the Profession:**

1. Expands the pool of top quality programming professionals to carry out the mission of Community Education and lifelong learning;
2. Spreads an awareness of the principles, philosophies and central purpose of Community Education to individuals and agencies that wish to engage in extensive lifelong learning programs;
3. Maximizes the impact of Community Education as it relates to quality of life. As each individual is strengthened through the process of professional competency endorsement, the entire Community Education movement is empowered and lifelong learning programs are strengthened.