

In this issue, **Inside the Academy** profiles Dr Robert F. "Skip" Valois, professor of health promotion and education at the Arnold School of Public Health and professor of family and preventive medicine at the School of Medicine, University of South Carolina (USC). He also has served as associate director of the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Arnold School of Public Health and currently serves as the director for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program in Health Education in conjunction with the University of South Carolina College of Education.

A native of Poughkeepsie, and later, Elmira, New York, Dr Valois holds a BS degree in health science from the State University of New York at Brockport and an MS degree (Health and Safety Education) and a PhD degree (Health and Safety Education) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In addition, Dr Valois completed a postdoctoral fellowship, US Public Health Service Traineeship, and the MPH degree in Health Behavior, at the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Public Health. Prior to joining the faculty of the Arnold School of Public Health at USC (1990), Dr Valois held faculty positions at Eastern Illinois University (1982-86), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1987-90), and the University of Texas at Austin (1987-90).

Dr Valois has served as a consultant to numerous federal agencies. His research as a principal or coprincipal investigator has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other agencies of the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Education. He and associated researchers have attracted additional

funding from various foundations including the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundations. His total funding, including that from state and local agencies, exceeds \$5 million, and he has served as an evaluator or consultant to projects whose overall funding approaches a figure fivefold that number. His research is focused primarily on child, adolescent, and school health; health-risk behaviors; positive youth development; smoking cessation; and program evaluation. Dr Valois has published nearly 100 papers and other documents, extensively spread across well-respected journals. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Health Behavior*, the *Journal of School Health*, the *American Journal of Health Education*, and the *American Journal of Health Studies*, and he is a peer-reviewer for at least 12 other publications. He has made almost 200 professional presentations to international, national, state, and local groups over the past 24 years.

Demonstrating that superb researchers often are top-notch teachers as well, Dr Valois also has been recognized for teaching excellence at multiple universities, and in 2002, he received the James A. Keith Excellence in Teaching Award from the Arnold School of Public Health at USC. His outreach endeavors, including the use of cable television in community health promotion, also have received the attention of his peers. In his long career, Dr Valois has mentored close to 75 students in their thesis and dissertation research, as either a major advisor or affiliated committee member.

Dr Valois is a Fellow of the American School Health Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior, and a Fellow of the Research Consortium in the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He was the 1999 recipient of the American School Health Association's Research Council Award and also was recognized by that Association in 1999 for Outstanding Contributions to Substance Abuse Prevention. He was named as the

---

Address correspondence to Dr McDermott, Department of Community & Family Health, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, 13201 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33612-3805. E-mail: [rmcdermo@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:rmcdermo@hsc.usf.edu)

2002 American Association for Health Education (AAHE) Scholar and delivered the keynote address at the 2003 conference in Philadelphia. In 2003, Dr Valois was bestowed the William A. Howe Award, the American School Health Association's highest honor, recognizing outstanding contributions and distinguished service in school health. He is a Founding Member of the *American Academy of Health Behav-*

*ior* and has served as a member of the *Academy's* Board of Directors. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the *American School Health Association*.

Perhaps as well as anyone in the health education profession, Dr Valois demonstrates effectively, the seamless articulation of teaching, research and service. It is with pride that we give him this richly deserved acclaim **Inside the Academy**.