

Keeping up with Change... **Lifelong learning and what to study to today** *by Patricia M. Boer, EdD*

Ten years ago I wrote about the importance of lifelong learning as a strategy to stay relevant in a changing society. The article noted that it doesn't necessarily take an MBA, or Master's degree in your specialty. Often it takes only a few courses. For example I highlighted the number of teachers studying technology, doctors and dentists taking business courses and business professionals studying foreign languages to understand diversity within the marketplace. Likewise I mentioned the number of journalists/ members of the media studying business concepts and cultural studies to understand better and report upon the emerging global economy.

Today I continue to advocate the importance of lifelong learning and was excited to see recently that the New York Times echoes this message by offering one-of-a-kind classes/certificate programs called Professional Studies or the New York Times Knowledge Network: www.nytimes.com/knowledge. Consider the following:

- **Teaching:** Comprehensive Alternative Teacher Certification Program, *Florida State College at Jacksonville*. This program is a response to the teacher shortage in many states and an opportunity for all students who are non-education majors with bachelor's degrees to complete their professional (not temporary) teaching certification in the areas of needed content. Program participants complete a competency-based alternative certification program. *Beginning October 25, 2010.*
- **Medicine:** Online Certificate in Nurse Paralegal Studies. This certification program at *Thomas Edison State College* is designed to prepare nurse paralegals to work in law firms, corporations, hospital systems, medical legal publishing companies and government agencies. Nurses who complete the program will also be prepared to be legal nurse consultants. *Beginning October 4, 2010.*
- **Business Management:** Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship. Dreaming of starting your own business? *Rosemont College* offers a 15-credit certificate program designed to equip you with the skills, knowledge and background needed, plus a detailed business plan that upon completion of the program will give you tools to make your dream a reality. Entirely online the certificate program includes five courses with the key elements for entrepreneurial success. *Rolling admission.*
- **Media:** Emerging Media Journalism Certificate. *Ball State University* designed this certificate program to help working journalists and other professionals learn to use new technologies and deliver compelling stories across a variety of media platforms. The program can also supplement the educational experience of journalism and mass media students at other colleges/universities that do not have emerging media programs. Students may pick and choose classes that best fit their needs or complete all the courses that lead to Certification. *Beginning August 30, 2010.*
- **Non-profit Management.** Women and Philanthropy: The Time is Now: Offered by *The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University* Debra Mesch and Anddrea Pactor discuss an exploration of women emerging as a bold presence on the philanthropic landscape, transforming society around the world. *Rolling admission.*

Lifelong learning is no longer a luxury. It's part of staying abreast of change. Think about what you'd love to learn or want to know more about. Returning to school will demonstrate your value added worth, and prepare you to compete in our expanding global economy.

