

# ADVANCING AGE INCLUSIVITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

August 2020

## Coming This September

The inaugural issue of *Advancing Age Inclusivity in Higher Education* will be published in September 2020—with bimonthly issues to follow. The Newsletter is a place where educators, administrators, scholars, and community members can share news about how colleges and universities are responding to aging populations and the rise of more age-diverse campuses. Read feature articles from campus leaders that highlight the footings of age inclusivity, learn from diverse institutions in “Campus Spotlights” about innovative ways they are mounting their age-friendly efforts, and hear from advocates in “Campus Voices” about their personal experiences and insights on higher education. The Newsletter also brings readers “News and Notes” about programs, events, and projects happening at partner institutions in the Age-Friendly University (AFU) network and other affiliates committed to fostering age inclusivity. Find useful information about tools, articles, webinars, and more in the “Resource Corner” to support various institutional efforts.

Comments and suggestions about Newsletter content and special areas of focus are very much welcomed from our readers. Please send correspondence to [ageinclusive@geron.org](mailto:ageinclusive@geron.org).

## Meet The Editors



*Greetings from the Newsletter Editor!* I'm **Joann M. Montepare**, PhD, Director of the RoseMary B. Fuss Center for Research on Aging and Intergenerational Studies and Professor of Psychology at Lasell University. Advancing age-inclusivity has been a driving force in my career. I recently led the establishment of my campus as one of the first institutions of higher education in the US to join the Age-Friendly University (AFU) network – a pioneering global initiative launched by Ireland's Dublin City University and endorsed by GSA's Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). Being a strong believer in the value of intergenerational teaching and learning, I also developed the “Talk of Ages” program at my university that engages older and younger learners across the curriculum around issues of mutual interest – such as social justice, the environment, art and health. As a longtime member and Fellow of GSA and AGHE, I've had the great pleasure of working with colleagues who energize and inform the field of aging. It is my hope that this Newsletter will bring together these voices to inspire new ways that higher education can respond to contemporary age demographics through more age-inclusive, age-friendly programs, practices, and partnerships.



*Hello!* I am Newsletter Associate Editor **Caroline Cicero**, PhD, MSW, MPL, an Instructional Associate Professor at the University of Southern California (USC) Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. I direct the USC Age-Friendly University (AFU) Initiative, a coalition of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees aiming to address age-inclusivity on campus and the experiences of our diverse network of older Trojans. USC AFU collaborates with Purposeful Aging Los Angeles and is planning work with other academic institutions across California to address our regional responses to population aging. Making local communities better places to grow old, fighting ageism in society and culture, and educating students to embrace aging and engage in policy change are my primary interests and goals. For the last 25+ years, I have lived in the Los Angeles area, where my past professional work includes senior care management, affordable housing development, fall prevention, environmental design, and policy planning in public, private, and nonprofit settings.



*Hi!* I am Newsletter Associate Editor **Andrea Zakrajsek**, OTD, OTR/L, a Professor at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) School of Health Sciences and Co-chair of the EMU Age-Friendly University (AFU) Steering Committee. As my career has focused on understanding and supporting full participation of older adults and people with disabilities, I am very excited to be a part of the AFU international network and connecting with like-minded faculty, staff, students, and community members to support age as a component of diversity on university campuses worldwide. I recently led an environmental scan of “age friendliness” with my colleagues and students at EMU and am wrapping up a sabbatical project aiming to understand the lived experiences of older learners in higher education. I am honored to be joining the *Advancing Age-Inclusivity in Higher Education* Newsletter team and look forward to highlighting the innovative age-inclusive initiatives in higher education.

Changing age demographics are a defining contemporary reality reshaping societies and challenging institutions of higher education to consider how they can respond to aging populations. It is clear that institutions must ready themselves to be more age friendly, but less clear how they might do so efficiently and effectively through new approaches to teaching, research, and community engagement.

In 2016, the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) of The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) responded by endorsing the Age-Friendly University (AFU) initiative launched by Ireland's Dublin City University (DCU). The AFU initiative offers a set of guiding principles for broadening educational access to older learners, expanding aging education and research, integrating intergenerational exchange, and developing community partnerships that address aging issues. The AFU initiative also includes a growing global network of partner institutions committed to being more age friendly. Read more about GSA-AGHE AFU work on the GSA [website](#) and DCU AFU work on the DCU [website](#).

Following their endorsement with action, GSA convened the AFU Workgroup, whose mission is to identify, develop, and disseminate resources that GSA members can use to explore age-friendly needs at their institutions and develop their vision for becoming more age-inclusive educational destinations. More broadly, our work aims to support the global AFU initiative.

The AFU Workgroup is excited to see the launch of the Advancing Age Inclusivity in Higher Education Newsletter. The Newsletter is part of a broader set of efforts made possible by a generous grant from AARP. These efforts also include the development of a toolkit of resources for campus leaders to use for exploring and creating programs and practices that advance age inclusivity in higher education as well as build the AFU global network. Resources will focus on topics such as “Higher Education and the Age-Friendly Movement,” “Making the Case,” “Where to Start,” “Gaining Momentum,” and “Assessing, Measuring, and Tracking Success.” The AFU Workgroup will soon announce a call for a small grants program that will provide opportunities for institutions to develop and implement projects that advance age inclusivity through new curricular efforts and community partnerships.

The AFU Workgroup is gathering input from AFU partners and others to inform its toolkit work. We invite you to complete the [toolkit survey](#) about resources you may have to share and suggestions for new resources.

## AFU Workgroup Members

**Joann Montepare**  
(Workgroup Chair, AGHE Vice Chair Elect),  
*Lasell University*  
**Carrie Andreoletti**,  
*Central Connecticut State University*  
**Elizabeth Bergman**, *Ithaca College*  
**Marilyn Gugliucci**, *University of New England*  
**Judith Howe** (AGHE Chair), *Icahn School of  
Medicine at Mount Sinai*

**Nancy Morrow-Howell**,  
*Washington University in St. Louis*  
**Michelle Porter**, *University of  
Manitoba*  
**John Schumacher**,  
*University of Maryland Baltimore  
County*  
**Nina Silverstein** (AGHE Past Chair),  
*University of Massachusetts Boston*

Supported by



1220 L St. NW, Suite 901, Washington, DC 20005.



<https://www.geron.org/>

[Manage Email Preferences](#)