One Vision, Many Paths: Making an Age-Friendly University (AFU) Work for You

THIS PROJECT WAS PARTIALLY UNDERWRITTEN BY A GRANT FROM THE RETIREMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION TO THE ACADEMY FOR GERONTOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (AGHE) FOR THE FOUNDERS 3.0 PROJECT
AFU Webinar Series Team

Becoming an Age-Friendly University Partner
  Joann M. Montepare (Professor, Director of RoseMary B. Fuss Center for Research on Aging and Intergenerational Studies, Lasell College, Massachusetts, USA)
  Kimberly S. Farah (Professor of Chemistry, Lasell College, Massachusetts, USA)

One Vision, Many Paths: Making an Age-Friendly University Work for You
  Carrie Andreoletti (Professor of Psychological Science, Coordinator of Gerontology, Central Connecticut State University, Connecticut, USA)
  Andrea June (Associate Professor of Psychological Science, Central Connecticut State University, Connecticut, USA)

A Starting Point for Looking at Age-Friendliness on My Campus: AGHE Can Help
  Nina M. Silverstein (Professor of Gerontology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA-USA)
  Marilyn Gugliucci (Professor, Director of Geriatrics Education and Research, University of New England, Maine, USA)
Overview

One Vision, Many Paths: Making an AFU Work for You

- One Vision: AFU as a Framework
  - Review of AFU vision and principles

- Many Paths
  - Assessing strengths to determine your path
  - Connecting strengths to the AFU principles

- Making AFU Work for You: AFU at Different Institutions
  - Our path
  - Other paths
One Vision

AFU as a Framework for Change

“Working together to promote an inclusive approach to healthy and active ageing, through our research agendas and focus on innovation to address specific issues affecting older adults, our curriculum development and the enhancement of learning opportunities for people across the generations . . . [to] promote a greater, more connected and productive quality of life for older adults.”

The AFU Pillars

Teaching and Learning
Lifelong Learning
Research and Innovation
Intergenerational Learning
Encore Careers and Enterprise
Civic Engagement
The 10 AFU Principles

1. To encourage the participation of older adults in all the core activities of the university, including educational and research programs.
2. To promote personal and career development in the second half of life and to support those who wish to pursue second careers.
3. To recognize the range of educational needs of older adults (from those who were early school-leavers through to those who wish to pursue Master’s or PhD qualifications).
4. To promote intergenerational learning to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.
5. To widen access to online educational opportunities for older adults to ensure a diversity of routes to participation.
6. To ensure that the university’s research agenda is informed by the needs of an aging society and to promote public discourse on how higher education can better respond to the varied interests and needs of older adults.
7. To increase the understanding of students of the longevity dividend and the increasing complexity and richness that aging brings to our society.
8. To enhance access for older adults to the university’s range of health and wellness programs and its arts and cultural activities.
9. To engage actively with the university’s own retired community.
10. To ensure regular dialogue with organizations representing the interests of the aging population.
Many Paths
Assessing Strengths

- What makes your university distinct or unique?
- How can your location and local aging network be an asset?
- How are you already serving adult learners or older adults?
- What are the priorities of your administration?
- Who are the gatekeepers and change agents on your campus?
- What individual strengths do you bring?
- What are you most passionate about?
Our Strengths

- Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) is a regional public university with a strong emphasis on teaching
- Carnegie Community Engagement Institution and Campus of Compassion
- Long-standing gerontology program with strong ties to aging network
- Passion for intergenerational service-learning
- Small but dedicated interdisciplinary gerontology committee
- AGHE membership and support
- Continuing Education with new Lifelong Learning Program
- Administrative turnover providing new opportunities
Connecting Strengths to AFU Principles

**Principle 4.** To promote *intergenerational learning* to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.

**Principle 7.** To increase the understanding of students of the *longevity dividend* and the increasing complexity and richness that aging brings to our society.

**Principle 10.** To ensure regular *dialogue* with organizations representing the interests of the aging population.
Navigating Our Path

Highlighting Strengths and Gaining Endorsement

Comprehensive Assessment

AFU Committee

Campus-Wide Knowledge and Support
Other Paths: Florida State University

- **Sample Strengths**
  - Tallahassee was in the midst of trying to become an age-friendly community and a dementia-friendly community
  - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) through the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy
  - Institute for Successful Longevity has developed a large research participant registry (~2,700 volunteers age 60+)
  - Building AFU around Principle 1: To encourage the participation of older adults in all the core activities of the university, including educational and research programs.
    - InnoVenture Weekend

Courtesy of Neil Charness, Ph.D.
Other Paths: Washington University in St. Louis

- Sample Strengths
  - Long-standing academic interests in productive engagement in later life, social engagement, and encore careers
  - Chancellor has always supported gerontology (started the University’s Center for Aging)
  - Popular and supported interdisciplinary co-taught course called “When I’m 64,” which challenges students to think about long life and implications for them, personally and professionally

- Building AFU around Principle 2: To promote personal and career development in the second half of life and to support those who wish to pursue second careers.

- Washington University for Life

Courtesy of Nancy Morrow-Howell, Ph.D. and Brian Carpenter, Ph.D.
Other Paths: Lasell College

- **Sample Strengths**
  - Having Lasell Village as part of the campus community, as it allows older adults to have access to core educational and other resources (culture, art, etc.)
  - Intergenerational interaction in/out of the classroom
  - Newton has been doing age-friendly work; Boston has a large age-friendly initiative and the governor just had Massachusetts designated an age-friendly state

- **Building AFU around Principle 1:** To encourage the participation of older adults in all the core activities of the university, including educational and research programs.
  - Intergenerational modules in classes (1- to 2-week activities built around course content)

Courtesy of Joann Montepare, Ph.D. and Kimberly Farah, Ph.D.
Other Paths: University of Rhode Island

- Sample Strengths
  - Well-respected program in gerontology with visibility on campus
  - Large and flourishing Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
  - Well-developed faculty interest in research on issues related to aging and older adults

- Building AFU around Principle 4: To promote intergenerational learning to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.
  - Cyber Seniors, in which URI students work as volunteers to tutor older adults on the use of technology (e.g., smartphones, iPads, laptops)

Courtesy of Phillip Clark, Sc.D.
Other Paths: University of Akron

- Sample Strengths
  - Gerontology education through the Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology
  - Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR) was founded in 1999 and holds programs monthly; courses provided by retired and semi-retired academic faculty for retired and pre-retired adult learners

- Building AFU around Principle 8: To enhance access for older adults to the university’s range of health and wellness programs and its arts and cultural activities.
  - Started Ohio Senior Olympics and currently coordinating it with the Department of Sport Science

Courtesy of Jennifer Stanley, Ph.D.
Making AFU Work for You
Next GSA/AGHE - AFU Webinar

A Starting Point for Looking at Age-Friendliness on My Campus: AGHE Can Help

Nina M. Silverstein (University of Massachusetts Boston) and Marilyn Gugliucci (University of New England)
Friday, March 1, 2019
1:00 pm (EST)
Thank You
GSA/AGHE AFU Webinar Series on AFU Question & Answer

- We will not be using the “raise hand” feature today
- Please use the “questions” feature accessible on the right side of your screen
- If we do not get to all of the questions, we will email responses after the webinar

GSA Webinars www.geron.org/webinar
Webinar Evaluation

- In an effort for continual improvement, we would like to hear your thoughts.
- Please provide feedback by clicking the survey link at the end of the webinar.

*Thank you, and we hope you enjoyed the program!*