

University of Southern Indiana Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



AIM Nursing Home Consortium Monthly Newsletter November 2025

Family Caregiver Month

Upcoming Opportunities



Administrator-In-Training (AIT) Preceptor Training *Synchronous Online Training*

Become a [Certified Administrator-in-Training \(AIT\) Preceptor](#) in just one day! Join the training [online](#) on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET for a dynamic, IPLA board-approved training designed for Health Facility Administrators. If you're an HFA today, someone once precepted you - now

it's your chance to pay it forward and support the next generation of administrators. This interactive, virtual course fulfills the state-required educational hours for nursing home preceptors and **awards 8 continuing education credits upon completion**. The training goes beyond lectures - expect group work, problem-solving and engaging activities throughout the day. Residential facilities may opt in, though training is not required for them. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your preceptor eligibility requirements in just eight hours!

Event Details:

- When: Wednesday, January 28, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET
- Where: Online
- What: AIT Preceptor Training – become certified to precept future HFAs!

If you are interested, please complete the survey below, and specifically select
"Administrator-in-Training Preceptor Training for Staff."

[AIT Preceptor Training Survey](#)



SWIRCA & More Brain Health Series

Dementia Education

SWIRCA & More warmly invites you, your staff, and your clients to join them for an eye-opening session in their Brain Health Series. This session is titled: "Boost Your Brain Power- the Connection of Nutrition & Brain Health." Emerging research continues to show that what we eat is one of the most important modifiable factors in protecting brain health and reducing dementia risk. Come discover practical, evidence-based insights that go beyond the usual headlines. No RSVP needed - just drop in!

Presented by Rhonda Walsh, Dementia Outreach Specialist at SWIRCA & More, the session will cover:

- Foods that actively support brain health and resilience
- Ingredients and hidden additives worth limiting
- Simple ways to make smarter choices every day
- The latest findings from independent, cutting-edge sources

Event Details:

- When: Thursday, December 4, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. CT
- Where: SWIRCA & More in Evansville, IN

They'd love to see you there and explore together how small changes at the table can make a big difference for brain health - now and for years to come!

[Event flyer](#)



Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities

Age- and Dementia-Friendly Initiatives

Upcoming Meeting

There will be a Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities (DFIC) breakfast meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 8 - 10 a.m. CT located at the University of Southern Indiana on the 3rd floor of the Health Professions building. All DFIC members are welcome to attend. Please email Dr. Kevin Valadares at kvaladar@usi.edu if you are interested in attending.

[More about Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities](#)

DFIC Hosts A Dementia Friendsgiving

DFIC hosted a "potluck" celebration for their lively and growing dementia-friendly movement! They acknowledged how far the movement has come and rededicated themselves to this important work. They shared gratitude for people and organizations from every corner of the dementia-friendly movement and sharing what's to come for DFA.

If you are a person living with dementia, care partner, aging services professional, volunteer in the movement, business owner interested in dementia-friendly practices, state or local leader who want to bring dementia-friendly practices to their jurisdictions, contact Amanda Oporta with DFIC at admin@dfindiana.org or aoporta@iuhealth.org.





Upcoming Project ECHO® Series *Team-Based Educational Series*

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Professional Care Providers in Assisted Living

Starting in January 2026, the Alzheimer's Association Project ECHO® programs will continue with an assisted living focus. More Project ECHOs are planned to launch later in 2026.

Inspired by the way clinicians learn from medical rounds during residencies, the ECHO Model® has evolved into a learning framework that applies across disciplines for sustainable and profound change. Through expert-led sessions, case-based discussions and peer learning, participants gain practical knowledge and evidence-informed strategies to improve dementia care across various settings. These programs foster a supportive network that empowers professionals to deliver person-centered, high-quality care.

Who can participate?

This program is open to professional care provider *teams* for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia in Assisted Living or Lifeplan Communities. Ideal participants include Nursing Home Administrators, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Social Workers, Activity Coordinators and Resident Care Coordinators.

If you are interested, please complete the survey below, and specifically select "Alzheimer's Association® Project ECHO®"

[Project ECHO Survey](#)

Free Alzheimer's Association Trainings *Training and Education*

The Alzheimer's Association has several free trainings available on their website for different audiences. See the linked PDFs below for each intended audience, and links to each training. Some include continuing education credits.

[Family and People Living with Dementia](#)
[Clinicians](#)
[Public Health](#)



alzheimer's  association®



From National and Indiana State Government *Updates*

Indiana Department of Health

[Subscribe](#) to the Indiana Department of Health newsletter for long-term care updates from the state. The most recent newsletter gave updates on the Certified Healthcare Professions Commission, QMA certification clarification, and more.

The Department of Justice released the 2025 annual report to Congress on efforts to combat elder fraud and abuse. [Read about it here](#). Learn more about the Elder Justice Initiative and keep an eye on their press releases [here](#).

FSSA Indiana

There were many ideas and updates shared at the Commission on Aging Board Meeting on November 20, 2025. You can watch the [recording of the meeting here](#).

Caregiver Resources

Carewell® Article



An [excellent article](#) about communication for caregivers included a list of resources for caregivers. These tips and resources for caregivers are linked below. We hope they help you or someone you know.

- [Communication Tips for Caregivers - Heart.org](#)
- [The Conversation Project - guides](#)
- [The Care-Prepared Checklist](#)
- [Communication Tools for Caregivers - Cancer.org](#)
- [The Caregiver's Encyclopedia](#)
- [National Family Caregiver Support Program](#)
- [The 36-Hour Day by Nancy L. Mace and Peter V. Rabins](#)
- [The Emotional Survival Guide for Caregivers by Barry B. Jacobs](#)
- [Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes Are High](#)

Scholarly Article

What is Research Saying about Family Caregivers?

The number of family caregivers has increased by over 33% in the past 11 years. What challenges does this pose for families and the government as the demographics of the country - and the globe - change? To learn more about this pressing challenge, press the "Read More" button below.

[Read More](#)

More articles regarding family caregivers:

- ["AARP Research Insights on Caregiving"](#)
- ["More than half of Americans in their 40s are 'sandwiched' between an aging parent and their own children"](#)

Recent Activities

Interprofessional Geriatric Case Competition - October 2025

In early October, the Minnesota Northstar Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program began its Interprofessional Geriatric Case Competition, bringing together six teams of graduate and undergraduate students from diverse disciplines and 11 schools across the U.S. This year's competition immersed students in the complexities of caring for

older adults through a team-based model that emphasizes high-quality, collaborative care. Participants drew on the combined expertise of multiple health professions to develop a comprehensive, interprofessional care plan for their case patient, Mrs. Carla Staple.

Congratulations to all the teams and everyone involved for their outstanding work!

A special thank you to the judges, coaches, and Minnesota Northstar Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program for making this valuable learning opportunity possible.

Pictured are Dr. Zachary Ward (Assistant Professor of Health Administration) and Jenna Biggs (Health Administration Student at USI and Administrator-In-Training). They are discussing final thoughts and strategies for next year's competition.

Other members of the USI regional team were Paige Miller and Amy Scott from Generations and Bailey Rankin from USI Nursing.



[More about Interprofessional Geriatric Case Competition](#)

The Interprofessional Geriatric Case Competition is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP).

2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting - November 2025

The 2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Boston, MA, November 12–15, with the GWEP-CC Pre-Conference on November 11. The Pre-Conference provided an excellent opportunity for collaboration and idea exchange among GWEP programs nationwide. One highlight was the GWEP Marketplace, where programs showcased innovative projects, shared best practices, and learned from one another's successes. This interactive format fostered meaningful connections and sparked new ideas to strengthen our collective efforts in advancing geriatric care and education.



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Suzanne Leahy (USI GWEP Project Director and Assistant Professor of Gerontology at USI), Reagan Lawrence (Pre-Med Biology Student at USI, USI GWEP Student Worker, President of STELLAR, President of Sigma Phi Omega), Dr. Laurel Standiford-Reyes (Associate Professor of Psychology at USI), and Dr. Katie Ehlman (former USI GWEP Project Director and current Associate Professor of Gerontology at University of Nevada, Reno). They had a poster accepted for presentation at the 2025 GSA Conference entitled "Dementia Knowledge Assessment Points to Need for Greater Understanding of Modifiable Risk Factors in Rural Areas." The conference was held in Boston, November 12 -15.

Not pictured is Addilyn Krueger (Pre-Physician's Assistant Biology Student at USI, STELLAR member, and Sigma Phi Omega Vice President) who also attended. Additionally, Laura Holscher (Executive Director of Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability) and Gracie Money (USI GWEP Grant Coordinator) who attended the entire GSA conference and the GWEP-CC Pre-

Conference, respectively.

Reagan shared the following about her experience at the conference: "This trip to Boston was a wonderful and insightful trip. While dissemination was a small part of the trip: learning from experts, being receptive to changing ideas, and gaining new momentum in breaking barriers was another large part. I presented an assessment that was administered to inform educational initiatives in Dementia Friendly Communities. Additionally, I attended many sessions, one of which was a discussion between people living with dementia and their care partners and ultimately highlighted the need for a change in perspective on dementias. Many people view dementia as the end of life, 'dying from dementia.' However, this is not the case at all! LIVING with dementia is a much more accurate representation. People living with dementia still have wants, needs, and personality, and there is hope. This small shift in perspective is imperative to making safer spaces for those living with dementia."

Dementia Live® and USI Students - November 2025

USI dental hygiene and psychology students participated in the Dementia Live® dementia simulation. In the reflection portion, Dementia Live® facilitators help the students reflect on how they can take this new understanding of the disease and apply it to their future careers and their community.

[Learn more about Dementia Live](#)
[Host Dementia Live at your facility](#)



What is the AIM Nursing Home Consortium?

Join the USI GWEP AIM Nursing Home Consortium!

The [USI Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\)](#) has established a [nursing home consortium, AIM \(Advance, Improve, Move\)](#), designed to support nursing home leaders with education and innovative opportunities to grow age- and dementia-friendly care.

How to Join?

Become an AIM Nursing Home Consortium member by attending one of our quarterly educational meetings or [opting in to one or more of our initiatives](#).

Quarterly Educational Meetings

Quarterly meetings featuring national and regional experts will be hosted on Zoom, with **free continuing education credits** offered at each meeting.

Upcoming meeting:

Wednesday, January 28

1-2:30 p.m. CT

Topic: Mobility

Note: For this meeting, we will be requiring registration. Please complete the Zoom registration by clicking the blue button below. You will receive an email shortly after that will allow you to access the meeting.



[Zoom Registration](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

The AIM Nursing Home Consortium is made possible through the USI GWEP. Continuing education credits are provided by the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning - funded by the Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.



USI[®]GWEP
Geriatrics Workforce
Enhancement Program

For additional information or any inquiries regarding the AIM Nursing Home Consortium, please contact Gracie Money, the USI GWEP Grant Coordinator.

gamoney@usi.edu

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