

University of Southern Indiana
Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



AIM Nursing Home Consortium Monthly Newsletter
March 2026

Oral Health and Dementia



Upcoming Educational Meeting
Free Continuing Education

Wednesday, April 29

1 - 2:30 p.m. CT

Topic: "Connecting Care and Oral Health in Dementia Support"

Please complete the Zoom registration before the meeting. To do so, please click the blue button below and register. After registering, you will receive an email immediately after that will provide a link to access the meeting.

[Zoom Registration](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

Meet The Panelist: Emily Holt

Connecting Care and Oral Health in Dementia Support

Emily Holt is a registered dental hygienist, certified dental assistant, and clinical professor of dental hygiene and dental assisting at the University of Southern Indiana.

She has been a PAC certified independent trainer since 2020, publishing and presenting locally and nationally the connections between dementia and the mouth.



Upcoming USI Opportunities

Parkinson's and Oral Health Event

USI Dental Hygiene Program

Join a group of senior student clinicians from the Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Southern Indiana. The program is committed to promoting oral health awareness within the community. Students are interested in supporting individuals with Parkinson's disease through a free educational event that covers everyday oral hygiene strategies and adaptive tools to make daily care easier and more effective.

This interactive session focuses on oral hygiene care for individuals with Parkinson's and their caregivers, covering techniques, resources, and strategies to improve and maintain oral health. Please mark your calendar now for this excellent opportunity.

Friday, April 10 at 10 a.m.

Free Event - No Registration Needed

USI Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions - Room 1025

8600 University Blvd, Evansville, IN 47712

PARKINSON'S & ORAL HEALTH

What you Should Know

OVERVIEW

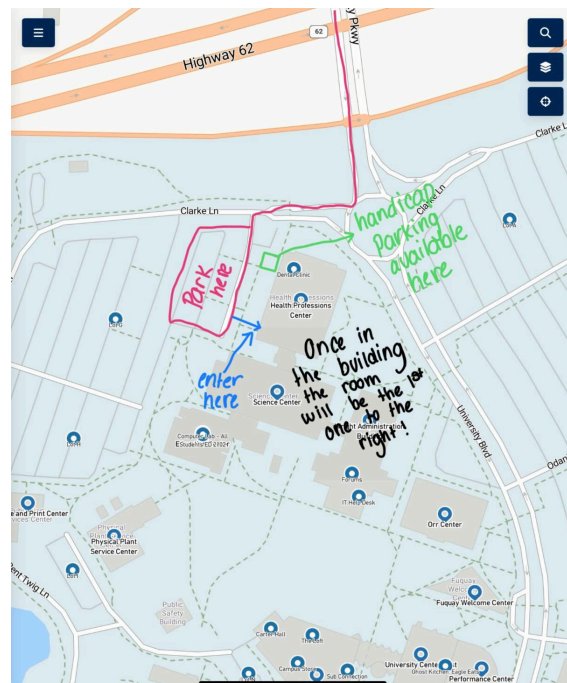
Join senior dental hygiene students at USI to talk and practice oral hygiene care. This event will give an insight on ways to better your oral health and learn how to assist others with daily oral care

TIME AND DATE

April 10, 2026
10:00 AM

LOCATION

Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions (USI)
Room 1025
8600 University Blvd
Evansville, IN 47712



BRONSTEIN CENTER FOR HEALTHY
AGING AND WELLNESS

Alz Fired Up;

THE UNSTOPPABLE NATURE OF
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND ONE
MAN'S QUEST TO OUTPACE IT

Tuesday, April 14th
6:00pm-8:00pm

Forum 3

Wright Administration, USI

Sean Terwilliger, a former technology leader in both domestic and international independent education, now serves as an advocate and speaker raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease. In this session, Sean will share his personal journey and provide a unique, firsthand perspective on navigating life with Alzheimer's.



Check Out
Seans Blog
Here!



PDEVV Hub *Upcoming Events*

PDEVV Hub is hosting its 4th Annual Tulip Trot to raise awareness about Parkinson's Disease (PD). Hosted in April, Parkinson's Awareness Month, the event is named after the official flower of PD, the tulip. The Tulip Trot allows people with Parkinson's Disease, their family members, health care workers, and interested individuals to learn more about PD and available local resources.



The exhibit tent will open at 7:30 a.m., where participants can fill out a sticker to walk in honor or in memory of a Parkinson's friend or family member, experience what it feels like to have Parkinson's

disease, or simply stop in and pick up some information about Parkinson's disease and our local resources.

Participation Options:

- 5K Run/Walk
- 1 Mile Walk
- Virtual 5K

Saturday, April 25 at 8 a.m. for 5K Run/Walk and 9 a.m. for 1 Mile Walk

Price: \$25 | Price increases after April 17

Garvin Park

1600 N Main St, Evansville, IN 47711

[More information about Tulip Trot](#)

The Evansville Support Group will meet on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 p.m.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

5130 Lincoln Ave, Evansville, IN 47715

Jessica Mason and the occupational therapy students from the University of Southern Indiana will be presenting.

For questions, contact pdevvhub@gmail.com

Future speakers:

May 13, 6 p.m. Parkinson's Foundation. PD101 - An intro into Parkinson's disease.

June 10, 6 p.m. Paul's Pharmacy - Medication Management

Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care Upcoming Training and Certification



The USI GWEP is hosting a training and certification in partnership with Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care (PAC)! 8 hours of continuing education credits will be provided at no cost for the in-person portion of the training - in addition to breakfast and lunch.

Training is first-come first-served, with a priority on nursing home staff educators. Please express interest no later than May 18, 2026, so that we can assess if slots are available to non-Staff Educators.

When is the training? Thursday, June 18, 2026, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CT (in-person portion)

Where is the training hosted? At the University of Southern Indiana (in-person portions) and Zoom (virtual portions)

Who is this training for? For nursing home Staff Educators who can then train their staff on the dementia care techniques.

What is a Dementia Educator? Certified Dementia Educators will:

- Demonstrate Snow Approach skills of Positive Physical Approach™, Hand-under-Hand®, GEMS® State Support and GEMS® State identification
- Gain basic dementia awareness and knowledge by watching *Accepting the Challenge* online video modules and obtaining a score of 80% or higher on the associated quizzes
- Gain knowledge by taking a Champion Knowledge Quiz and scoring 80% or higher
- Gain awareness and knowledge of the Adult Experiential Learning Cycle, coaching cycle, consulting cycles, personality traits, learning styles, when to use each cycle and which licensed content is a great match for various audiences

Licensed content after completion:

- Dementia Orientation
- Workshop A: Typical vs. Atypical Aging
- Workshop B: Positive Physical Approach™ and Hand-under-Hand®
- Workshop C: GEMS® States

- Getting to Know Dementia Community Training Kit
- PAC Skills Make the Difference
- Care Partner Support Series (five-part series) - license to host groups of ten care partners at a time

Time commitment:

- Pre-Work (4.5 hours)
 - Accepting the Challenge + Quiz (3 hours + quiz time)
 - Champions Videos + Quiz (1.5 hour + quiz time)
- In-Person Training (8 hours)
 - 1-day in-person training hosted at the University of Southern Indiana on June 18, 2026, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CT (8 hours)
- Post-Work (2 hours)
 - Videos Demonstrating Skill (2 hours of work preparing and practicing short videos to be reviewed by PAC Mentor)

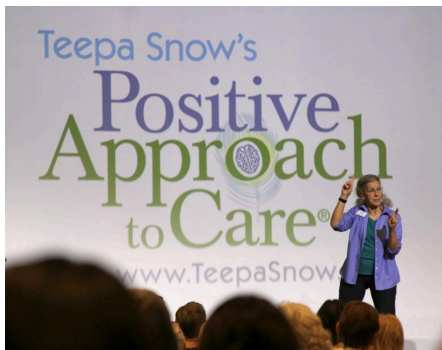
Total time commitment to become a PAC Certified Dementia Educator: 14.5 hours over several days.

Not familiar with Teepa Snow's innovative approach to dementia care? [Learn more here.](#)

Previously certified as a PAC "Trainer" and wondering how this differs and next steps? [Learn more here.](#)

In order to express interest in this training, please click the red button below. It will take you to our "Opt-In Initiative" survey. Please select "Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care **Dementia Educator' Training and Certification.**"

[Click Here to Express Interest](#)



Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care

Upcoming Webinar and Certification

The USI GWEP is hosting a webinar and certification for CNAs and HHAs in partnership with Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care (PAC)!

If you're worried about being unable to get off the floor during working hours to attend this training, don't worry! We will provide a recording of the webinar for 1 year, and you can still complete the quiz and receive the Teepa Snow Inspired dementia care certification!

Who is this webinar for? CNAs and HHAs caring for people living with dementia.

When is this webinar? Thursday, May 21, 2026, 12 - 1 p.m. CT

Where is this webinar hosted? On Zoom

What will you gain?

- Basics of dementia
- Evidence-based approaches to person-centered dementia care
- Teepa Snow Inspired Certification
- 1 hour of continuing education credits

Not familiar with Teepa Snow's innovative approach to dementia care? [Learn more here.](#)

In order to express interest in this training, please click the red button below. It will take you to our "Opt-In Initiative" survey. Please select "Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care **Webinar.**"

Click Here to Express Interest

Community Education Event for Seniors



Please share with seniors in your community!

The USI GWEPE is hosting a community event for seniors in collaboration with UnitedHealthCare, Ascension St. Vincent, and SWIRCA & More. This event is an opportunity for older adults to learn about local resources and a topic specifically tailored to their needs.

Light refreshments will be provided. There will be a 45-minute educational presentation about "Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults" and opportunities to ask questions and learn about each partner organizations' resources. Registration is encouraged in order to plan for refreshments and handouts - but not required.

Who is this for? Older adults

When: Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

Where: Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL) Central - Browning Rooms A and B

Register Here

Other Upcoming Opportunities

National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center *Upcoming Webinars*

On April 7, 2026, from 2 - 3 p.m. ET, the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will host the webinar, *Meeting Communities Where They Are: Innovative Approaches to Dementia Supports and Services*. A description of the webinar and registration information follows.



Addressing the unique support and service needs of communities is central to effective home- and community-based dementia care. While many dementia-specific interventions are grounded in research and best practices, they often require thoughtful adaptation to effectively reach underserved populations. Supports and services for people living with dementia, their caregivers, and their communities are most impactful when tailored to reflect cultural values, language, and lived experiences.

This webinar will feature two specialized, community-based dementia programs, each focused on an underserved population - African American and Korean American communities. Both programs have adapted their approaches to reduce barriers to service acceptance, increase engagement, and address unmet needs. Together, they will demonstrate strategies for delivering strengths-based, dementia-specific services and supports while navigating and overcoming challenges.

Please note:

- National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) webinars are free of charge and open to the public.
- NADRC webinars are recorded and will be available for viewing at <https://nadrc.acl.gov/>.

- Pre-registration is required to attend the live webinars.
- Closed captioning is available during the live event and is included in the recording for all NADRC webinars.

Additional information and registration form: [NADRC Webinar-Meeting-Communities-Where-They-Are-Innovative-Approaches-to-Dementia-Supports-and-Services](#)

On April 29, 2026, from 2 - 3 p.m. ET, the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will host the webinar, *Can Do! Reframing Dementia Support and Education to Focus on Strengths and Resilience*. A description of the webinar and registration information follows.

Living well with dementia is deeply influenced by the mindsets of both people living with dementia and their caregivers. *Learning to Live with Dementia* is a new support and education program model that combines a structured series of brief lessons with facilitated group sessions designed for people living with dementia and for caregivers to reflect on and share their experiences.

This innovative approach promotes a shift in perspective—focusing on what people *can* do to live well with dementia and providing practical strategies to support that goal. In this webinar, participants will learn about this strengths-based support and education program, hear inspirational stories, and gain new perspectives designed to reframe both the dementia journey and the caregiving experience. Participants will also be introduced to the *Learning to Live with Dementia* Facilitator Toolkit, a resource developed to strengthen facilitator skills, confidence, and capacity to deliver structured, group-based education and engagement.

Please note:

- National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) webinars are free of charge and open to the public.
- NADRC webinars are recorded and will be available for viewing at <https://nadrc.acl.gov/>.
- Pre-registration is required to attend the live webinars.
- Closed captioning is available during the live event and is included in the recording for all NADRC webinars.

Additional information about this webinar and registration form: [NADRC Webinar-Can-Do-Reframing-Dementia-Support-and-Education](#)

The webinar compendium is a collection of NADRC hosted webinars focused on dementia related topics. This compendium includes recordings and materials from NADRC webinars conducted between 2014 and 2025. Within the document, webinars are organized both chronologically and by topic, featuring details such as the webinar date, title, description, presenters, and related topics. Each entry contains hyperlinks to access the materials directly. This resource serves as a reference for those looking to learn more about dementia through the information presented in these webinars.

More information on [NADRC Webinar Compendium](#)

Dementia Friendly Indiana *Upcoming Events*

Dementia Friendly Indiana has been on the move! Counties throughout the state have been working hard to make their communities more accommodating to people living with dementia. Check out the updates from several counties below.



Vanderburgh County: Dementia Friendly Evansville is rebooting! The first Action Team meeting launched this week at EVPL Central. People from various professional backgrounds joined together with one common theme - a passion for making the community more dementia-friendly. The next Dementia Friendly Evansville Action Team meeting is April 24, 2026, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. CT at EVPL Central. Come join us!

Contact: kellim@evpl.org

Marion County: DFIndy will host a gathering May 20, 2 – 3:30 p.m. ET (hybrid). A Fall Festival at UIndy is set for Oct 21.

Contact: hness@cicoa.org

Henry County: Dementia education at Addison Place (New Castle) on the first Thursday monthly; youth-focused education & Dementia Live at a local church (TBD).

Contact: cdauidson@lifestreaminc.org



Spencer County: Apr 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT FREE Salad Lunch & Learn and vendor fair at Trinity United Methodist Church (Rockport). Jo Gilreath with Purdue Extension will present “Quick & Easy Cooking with an Air Fryer” for dementia care partners and others who are too exhausted to think about what to cook. Also, a joint Memory Café with Warrick County (monthly).

RSVP: Lwright@swirca.org

[Flyer for Salad Lunch and Learn](#)

Warrick County: Joint Warrick–Spencer Memory Café held monthly (details TBD).

Contact: bhancock@vinu.edu

Knox County: May Dementia Friendly Community event (date/time/location TBD).

Contact: bhancock@vinu.edu

Monroe County: Memory Cafés and two support groups continue in Bloomington. Just launched the “Connecting Neighbors”

Program. Pairs volunteers with someone who needs the support of a listening, supportive friend. “Connecting neighbors” meets social support and resource connections.

Contact: daynathompson@mail.com



Owen County: 4th Thursday care partner support groups at Owen County Library 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 5 – 6 p.m. ET; action team ribbon cutting coming soon.

Contact: aguerrettaz@area10agency.org

Martin County: “Getting to Know Dementia” runs weekly for 6 weeks March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 & 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Martin County Community Learning Center 4 H Fairgrounds & Event Center: 2664 US Highway 50 Loogootee, IN

Contact: dmatthews4@iuhealth.org

Orange County: Action team meets bi-monthly- next meeting will be March 24 from 11:30-12:30 at Lost River Market & Deli

Contact: nhopper1@iuhealth.org

Lawrence County: “Getting to Know Dementia” series at StoneGate Arts and Education (Bedford) 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. April 14, May 9, June 16

Contact: lscott24@iuhealth.org



Bell Oaks Place - World Health Day

Community Health Fair

Whether you are a professional in gerontology, a caregiver, a senior exploring options, or simply someone who wants to learn more about community health resources, this event is for you!

Available Resources:

- Over 20 trusted local vendors

- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy resources
- Memory care & brain health information
- Fall prevention education
- Community senior resources
- Fitness & wellness demonstrations

Welcome, Tri-State Genesis, where Ms. Niki will be leading engaging *Sit & Stretch* and senior fitness sessions for residents and guests who would like to participate!

A special treat showcase:

- A beautiful dessert display from our very own chef
- A refreshing fruit & yogurt bar sponsored by St. Croix Hospice

Ribbon Cutting at 1:30 p.m. with the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership

Tuesday, April 7 at 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Bell Oaks Place

4200 Wyntree Dr, Newburgh, IN 47630

[Flyer](#)



Matthew 25 - HIV & Aging Quarterly Meetings

Looking to connect with others in the aging industry? Join Matthew 25 for a quarterly HIV and Aging group for networking, updates, and learning more about what resources are available in the area. Each meeting will have a new guest speaker.

Below are the dates for this year's HIV and Aging meetings:

- May 6
- August 15
- November 4

These meetings are from 2 - 3:30 p.m. CT. The meetings are at Matthew 25's clinic at 101 NW 1st Street, Evansville, IN 47708, suite 215. They are located on the 2nd floor of the building.

[More about Matthew 25](#)

Grief Counseling Community Education and Clinical Training

The Southwestern Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition is proud to welcome Dr. Alan Wolfelt - named one of North America's leading death educators and grief counselors.

Join them for a free community event and a special clinical education training.

Community Event

Thursday, May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Browning Room - Central Library

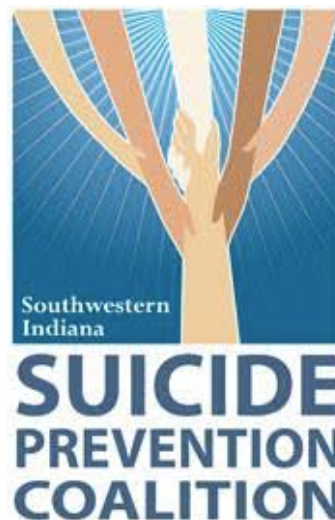
"Tending to Your Broken Heart When Someone Dies: Hope for Healing" (geared towards teens and adults)

Clinical Training

Friday, May 22, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center (SICTC)

"Exploring the Special Features of Suicide Grief: A Workshop for Caregivers"





Comfort Keepers's Care and Safety Program *Sensi* Presentation

Tammy Hobbs would welcome the opportunity to stop by and share a brief presentation on Comfort Keepers' new Care & Safety Program powered by Sensi. This technology helps identify subtle changes in a resident's routine that may signal a decline in condition, allowing for earlier intervention that can help prevent hospitalizations, reduce the risk of unexpected discharges, and improve overall resident safety.

It is a valuable tool that supports both residents and facility staff, and she would be happy to demonstrate how it works and explore potential partnership opportunities. She can be reached by email at TammyHobbs@comfortkeepers.com or by phone at 812-453-6601 to schedule a time.

Ascension St. Vincent Behavioral Health

The Harmony Program - Now Accepting Patients



Ascension St. Vincent Behavioral Health is now offering The Harmony Program, an intensive outpatient mental health program designed specifically for adults 55 and older experiencing psychiatric symptoms that can be treated in a structured group setting.

The program provides 9 – 12 hours of group therapy per week for approximately 12 weeks, offering a supportive and therapeutic environment that is less restrictive than inpatient care. Led by compassionate, licensed mental health professionals, The Harmony Program supports older adults navigating similar life transitions and stressors.

Participation may benefit individuals experiencing:

- Depressed mood affecting ability to function as normally
- Feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, and/or worthlessness
- Symptoms of anxiety and/or panic affecting functioning
- Psychiatric symptoms that cannot be managed with a lower level of care
- Recent discharge from an inpatient psychiatric program, requiring step-down treatment
- Current mental health needs not being met by available resources

Referrals are welcome from assisted living facilities, hospitals, primary care and mental health providers, family members, caregivers, and individuals seeking treatment. The program accepts most major insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Transportation is available via wheelchair-accessible van for residents of Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

For more information, see [flyer](#).

The Harmony Program provides [Individual and Small Group Mental Health Therapy](#).

The Mind - Body Connection (Movement of the Mind)

April 29th at 2:00 pm

Retreat at Leisure Living
2900 Cozy Court, Evansville IN 47720
Retreat Dining Room

Join IOP Counselor, Lindsey Summers, LMHC-A, from Ascension St. Vincent for an insightful discussion on:

- The correlation between mind and body.
- Beneficial techniques for maintaining a healthy balance.



Reservations are appreciated but not required 812-485-1439



Healthcare Article

Loneliness vs. Being Alone: *Why Connection Matters at Any Age* was written by Lindsey Summers, LMHC-A, IOP Counselor for The Harmony Program, who also provides individual therapy services at Ascension St. Vincent. There are two versions of this article available, with one offering slightly more detail while covering the same topic.



As people age, life changes can lead to spending more time alone, but being alone is not the same as feeling lonely. Solitude can be healthy and restorative, while loneliness is an emotional sense of disconnection that can negatively affect both mental and physical health. Despite beliefs about independence, the need for connection remains essential at every stage of life and is a sign of well-being, not weakness. Even small, consistent efforts, like social activities, conversations, or volunteering, can help build meaningful connections. It's never too late to form relationships, and support is available, including specialized mental health programs for older adults experiencing loneliness, anxiety, or depression.

Read about [Loneliness vs. Being Alone: Why Connection Matters at Any Age](#)

More about [The Harmony Program](#)

News

Indiana State Legislature *Recognizes Dementia as Public Health Issue*

Indiana [HEA 1029](#), recently signed into law, directs the state to educate the public on dementia and accept support from public and private partners. Early diagnosis enables care planning, risk reduction, and community support. ISMA will soon host a webinar for physicians on resources, workflow strategies, and connecting patients and caregivers statewide.

Indiana State Medical Association *Recognizes Dementia as Public Health Issue*

Over 121,000 Hoosiers live with Alzheimer's or other dementias, impacting families, caregivers, and the healthcare system. [ISMA Resolution 25-10](#) (page 53) recognizes dementia as a public health issue and connects physicians with free resources through the Alzheimer's Association's [ALZPro platform](#).

[Alzheimer's and Dementia Webinar](#) on Thursday, June 18 at noon.

Indiana Department of Health *Long-Term Care Newsletter*

The Long Term Care Newsletter, published by the Indiana Department of Health, Consumer Services & Health Care Regulation Commission, provides program updates related to licensing and healthcare quality information for long-term care facilities. This issue of the newsletter included:

- **General Updates**
 - Website Under Construction
 - Certified Healthcare Professions Commission (CHCPC)
- **Updates from Aide Training Program**
 - Testing Process Infographic
- **Updates from Division of Long-Term Care**
 - Paperless Survey Process
 - Liquid Oxygen Clarification
 - Recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Updated Guidance
 - Respiratory Virus Infection Control Guidance
- **Updates from Division of Acute/Continuing Care**
 - Complaint Submissions
 - 340B Drug Pricing Program Reporting Assistance Document

For more information about IDOH's The Long Term Care Newsletter, [Subscribe](#)

Recent Activities

New A Matter of Balance Classes

This month, several Matter of Balance classes started in Greene County, Pike County, and Daviess County!

[More about A Matter of Balance at USI](#)



Minka Tour for Interdisciplinary USI Students

We hosted another successful Minka tour for interdisciplinary USI students on March 19!

[More about the Minka at USI.](#)

Dementia Live for Nursing Students

We hosted another successful Dementia Live session for USI nursing students on March 24!

[More about Dementia Live at USI.](#)



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.

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
812-464-1894

Health Professions Center, 3092

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