

# THE ARIZONA GWEP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



## ABOUT

The mission of the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP) is to provide the best possible care through an interprofessional approach to individual, system, community and population level education, training and models of care innovations.

The AZ-GWEP Newsletter is an important forum to share AZ-GWEP activities and highlight your valuable work. Please use this form by the 10th of each month to be featured in the next issue:

[SUBMIT INFO FOR  
OUR NEXT ISSUE](#)



Every May, the nation observes [Older Americans Month](#)- a time to honor older adults and reaffirm our commitment to healthy, independent aging. This year's theme, Champion Your Health, emphasizes prevention, self-advocacy, and informed decision-making as cornerstones of healthy aging.

Throughout May, we invite you to join the national conversation by using #OlderAmericansMonth on social media, sharing resources with your networks, and celebrating the older adults in your community. Together as an AZ-GWEP Community, we can champion healthier aging for all Arizonans.

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## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### MEET LINDA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF NURSING

Linda Perez is a Principal Lecturer at the University of Arizona College of Nursing. Her thirty-five years of nursing experience includes direct patient care, leadership/management, and academic instruction/supervision in intensive care and medical-surgical units, and long-term care facilities. She uses her direct patient care and leadership experiences to develop an innovative academic curriculum that enhances student education.



Ms. Perez has a passion for enhanced care of the geriatric population, particularly in underserved communities. She is a fellow of a Hispanic Serving Institute and has additional training in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion which enhances her ability to incorporate culturally sensitive perspectives in care of all populations.

She specializes in educating students on health and wellness in aging populations living with chronic conditions. In 2023-2024, Ms. Perez was an active leader, developer, and academic success coach for the Strengthening Eldercare Workforce through Rural and Underserved Nursing (SEW-RUN) HRSA grant, which increased opportunities for students from under-represented backgrounds to engage in community-based care of older adults. This program focused on teaching nursing students about comprehensive, whole-person care for older adults with complex health needs.

In addition, Ms. Perez was the Academic Success Coach for the Arizona Nursing Career Apex Transitions (ANCAT) HRSA Grant (aka ANIE) for the past 8 years. Recently, she piloted an educational simulation intervention to prepare nursing students to care for aging adults at the end of life. Overall, she skillfully supports student scholars to advance their personal and professional talents for entering the field of nursing and as leaders in the profession.



Connect with our  
[AZ-GWEP Community](#)  
on LinkedIn

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### ADVANCES IN AGING LECTURE SERIES

May 11th  
12 - 1 pm (MST)

New updates on CMS  
Age-Friendly Measures  
for the Hospital Setting  
Karen Parker, MD, PhD

[VIEW PRESENTATION](#)

View archived  
presentations [here](#)

Download the event flyer

**ADVANCES IN AGING LECTURE SERIES**

**INTERPROFESSIONAL PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Nutrition in Older Adults: Protein, Fiber, and Beyond**

**LIVESTREAM**  
[HTTPS://STREAMING.BIOCXM.ARIZONA.EDU/STREAMING/2101/EVENT](https://streaming.bioccm.arizona.edu/streaming/2101/event)

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Recognize age-related changes that affect nutrition in older adults.
- Apply protein, fiber, and key micronutrient guidelines to reduce frailty and functional decline.
- Integrate practical, patient-centered nutrition strategies into older adult care.

**VIEW ARCHIVED PRESENTATIONS**  
[HTTPS://STREAMING.BIOCXM.ARIZONA.EDU/STREAMING/2101/ARCHIVED-PRESENTATIONS](https://streaming.bioccm.arizona.edu/streaming/2101/archived-presentations)

**Accreditation Statement:**  
The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**Disclosure Statement:**  
All faculty, CME steering committee members, and the CME office reviewers have disclosed that they have no financial relationships with commercial interests that could constitute a conflict of interest concerning the CME activity.

**Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program**

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Banner  
Alzheimer's  
Institute

## Dementia Friends Champion Training

Does the Dementia Friends philosophy speak to you? Are you interested in being trained to facilitate sessions in your networks or the broader community? **NEXT TRAINING: MAY 28TH AT 10-11:30 AM MST**

[Register](#)

## Join the GWEP-CC Online Community



GWEPOnline is the central hub for the GWEP-CC Age-Friendly Health Systems Continuous Action Community and for all GWEP directors, team members, and partners.

Members will have access to resources such as the American Geriatrics Society Age-Friendly Resource Library, GWEP CC Newsletter, GWEP-CC Coaching Calls (slides and recordings), Community Catalyst's 4Ms Consumer Tools, GWEP-CC Age-Friendly Health Systems Case Studies, and much more. You can view the last GWEP-CC Coaching Call, "Practicing the 4Ms as a Set": [recorded team webinar](#). Coaching Call slides are available under Tools and Resources on the GWEP Online Community site (see below on how to register).

**NEXT CALL: JUNE 11TH AT 12:00 PM MST**

If you would like to join the [GWEP Online Community](#) (login required) **please contact Lisa O'Neill at [loneill@arizona.edu](mailto:loneill@arizona.edu)** who will submit your name for account creation.



[Register](#)

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## Innovations in Aging Graduate Programs:

An Online Information Session



**Tuesday, May 5, 2026**  
**12-1 p.m. (MST)**

Join us for a virtual information session on the Innovations in Aging Graduate Certificate and Master's programs. These programs are affiliated with the Arizona Center on Aging and offered through the University of Arizona Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs. This session will cover careers in aging as well as overviews of curriculum, admissions requirements and the application process. This event is designed to benefit those interested in the field of aging and enrollment in our master's and graduate certificate programs.



**REGISTER  
HERE**

[innovationsinaging.uahs.arizona.edu](https://innovationsinaging.uahs.arizona.edu)  
[innovationsinaging@arizona.edu](mailto:innovationsinaging@arizona.edu)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
**Innovations in Aging**  
Graduate Interdisciplinary Program