



Bringing Oregonians Together

Aging Matters Locally and Globally



Background

The Aging Matters Initiative is committed to enhancing quality of life for older adults who are poor, frail or incapacitated, and who have little support. The initiative is a forum for identifying and promoting innovative policies and programs that respond to housing, health, and social concerns. Aging Matters is a project of the Institute on Aging at Portland State University, and was created through a private gift by PSU alumni Dr. Keren Brown Wilson and Dr. Michael DeShane.

The project includes a series of summits facilitated by Oregon Consensus, and research and demonstration projects in Oregon, and Nicaragua conducted by the Institute, and will identify underutilized assets and strengths of individuals and communities to help older adults maintain independence. By studying the first-hand experiences of aging adults living at the margins, Aging Matters will identify sustainable responses to population aging.

Timeline

January 2011 – Present

Region

Statewide

Project Lead

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Results

An Aging Matters academic lunch brought together representatives of the Oregon academic community to discuss the future of Oregon's aging population. In a separate one-day conference, agencies that serve aging adults convened to explore similar issues, and to hear a presentation by Susan Reinhard, Director of AARP's National Policy Institute. The conference culminated in a "Catalyst Café" discussion based on a "world café" model, with ideas captured by a graphic facilitator. In both meetings, participants reviewed a timeline of events, trends, values, and forces that have influenced local and national policy development and services for the aging. The analysis will inform a full-day summit of key thought leaders, who will identify innovative approaches for creating an intergenerational community by 2040.

