UMaine: An Age-Friendly University

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UMaine: An Age-Friendly University

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UMaine is focused on serving ALL citizens across the state of Maine. Supported by our UMaine Center on Aging, we will:

- Cultivate opportunities for people of all ages to participate in campus life
- Expand partnerships with aging-focused organizations
- Develop inclusive marketing that promotes older adults’ presence on campus
- Expand programming for retirees and all older Mainers, encouraging their active engagement in university life

Be part of the movement!
Visit us at mainecenteronaging.umaine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
The Rationale

- A concrete expression of our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- An effort to emphasize the intergenerational appeal of current programming through the 10-principle framework
- Acknowledges our responsibility to serve the state and community
The AFU’s Ten Principles

• **Principle One:** Participation in the core activities of the university, including educational and research programs

• **Principle Two:** Promote personal and career development in the second half of life

• **Principle Three:** Recognize the range of educational needs of older adults

• **Principle Four:** Promote intergenerational learning

• **Principle Five:** Widen access to online educational opportunities
The AFU’s Ten Principles

- **Principle Six**: Ensure that the university's research agenda is informed by the needs of an aging society

- **Principle Seven**: Increase the understanding of the longevity dividend and the increasing complexity and richness that aging brings to society

- **Principle Eight**: Enhance access for older adults to the university's range of health and wellness programs, and arts and cultural activities

- **Principle Nine**: Engage actively with the university's own retired community

- **Principle Ten**: Ensure regular dialogue with organizations representing the interests of the aging population
A Survey at UMaine Discovered

- Serve as role models, teachers, and mentors
- Participate in the research enterprise
- Lend expertise by serving on boards, advisory panels, task forces, etc.
- Engage in life-long learning
- Take advantage of recreational opportunities
- Volunteer their time and expertise
- Pursue second and encore careers
Endorsements and Acceptance

• Endorsements were requested and received from UMaine executive administration and the Faculty Senate
• Acceptance into the AFU Global Network as approved by Dublin City University and its affiliate the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)
Challenges to Advancing AFU Principles

• Maximizing UMaine stakeholder participation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic

• Advocating for older adult access to and engagement with technologies that foster communication and engagement at UMaine

• Achieving participant diversity in the engagement of older adults in UMaine AFU activities

• Obtaining buy-in from older rural residents in the UMaine AFU
Proposed First Steps

• Expand partnerships with aging-focused community organizations across greater numbers of departments

• Market opportunities that promote older adults’ presence on the UMaine campus

• Expand the ways in which the university engages directly with retirees and older Mainers generally
Questions and Thoughts?

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