

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

General University of Maine Publications

University of Maine Publications

4-2022

UMaine: An Age-Friendly University

Lenard Kaye

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



UMaine: An Age-Friendly University

Lenard Kaye, DSW, PhD
Director and Professor
University of Maine Center on Aging



UMaine is an Age-friendly University!

The University of Maine supports diversity, equity and inclusion in all its endeavors, and seeks participation by people of all ages.

The recent designation as a member of the Age-friendly University Global Network underscores that commitment.

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



Scan me

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?



Lenard W. Kaye, D.S.W., Ph.D.
Professor, University of Maine School of Social Work
Director, University of Maine Center on Aging
25 Texas Avenue
Camden Hall
Bangor, ME 04401
len.kaye@maine.edu
<http://mainecenteronaging.umaine.edu/>
207.262.7922