



Lewis-Clark State College Center for Rural Aging

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Introduction & History

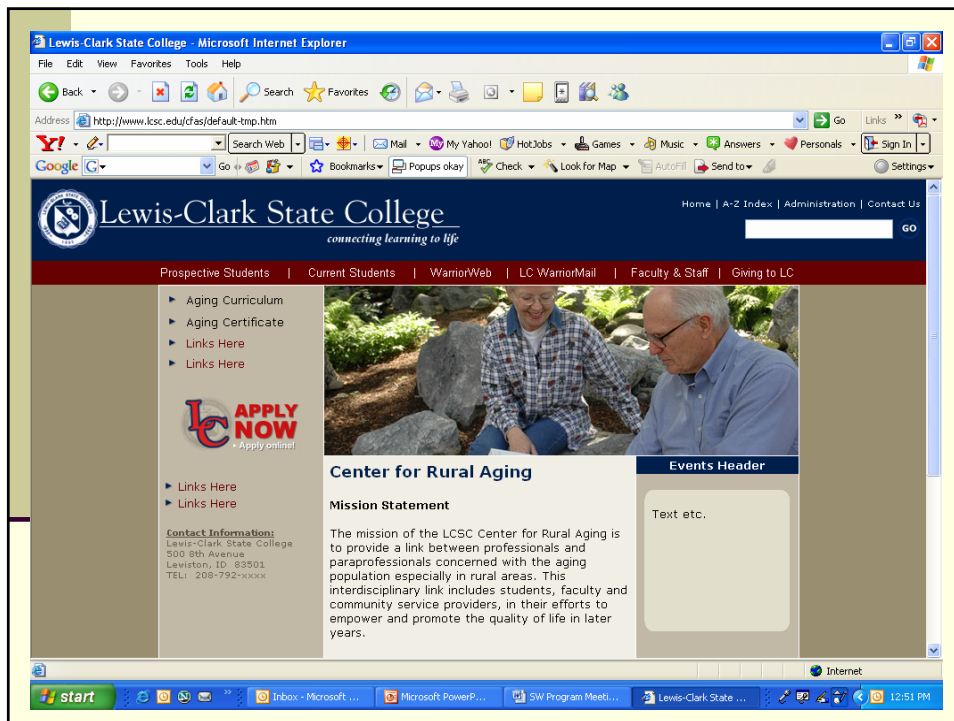
- LCSC Center for Rural Aging
 - Perceived Future Need
 - Employer Need
 - Student Interest
- Interdisciplinary Faculty Working Group
 - Social Work
 - Psychology
 - Nursing
 - Kinesiology and Health
 - Business



LCSC Center for Rural Aging



HOME ON THE WEB – <http://www.lcsc.edu/cfas/default-tmp.htm>



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Center for Rural Aging

Mission Statement

The mission of the LCSC Center for Rural Aging is to provide a link between professionals and paraprofessionals concerned with the aging population especially in rural areas. This interdisciplinary link includes students, faculty and community service providers, in their efforts to empower and promote the quality of life in later years.

Events Header

Text etc.



Mission Statement

The mission of the LCSC Center for **Rural** Aging is to provide a link between professionals and paraprofessionals concerned with the aging population, especially in rural areas. This **interdisciplinary** collaboration includes students, faculty and community service providers in their efforts to honor the inherent dignity and worth of individuals in our democratic society through empowering and promoting the quality of life in later years. Aging and retirement should reflect the health, honor and dignity of all individuals.



GOALS

Origins of the Center for Rural Aging Goals

1. Older Americans Act
2. White House Conference on Aging
3. Idaho Commission on Aging
4. Area Agencies on Aging
5. Association for Gerontology in Higher Education
6. National Association of Social Workers





Goals

1. To identify and address education and training needs in gerontology
2. To provide support, information and expertise to students, faculty and others interested in issues related to aging
3. To facilitate communication and collaboration among local, state, and national stakeholders
4. To develop and implement innovative wellness programs
5. To identify the needs and provide education, support and training in the area of financial management and related legal issues facing the aging population

Certificate in Rural Aging

Characteristics of the Certificate

1. Goal – to provide education for those who will meet the needs of the aging rural population
2. Rural focus with Interdisciplinary Approach
3. Content focuses on Wellness, Health & Exercise Science, Business/Finance and Aging Related Human Services
4. Aimed at Professional & Paraprofessional Caregivers and Service Providers for Aging
5. Collaboration with North Idaho College
6. Communication with UI, EWU, BSU, and NNU
7. Timeline



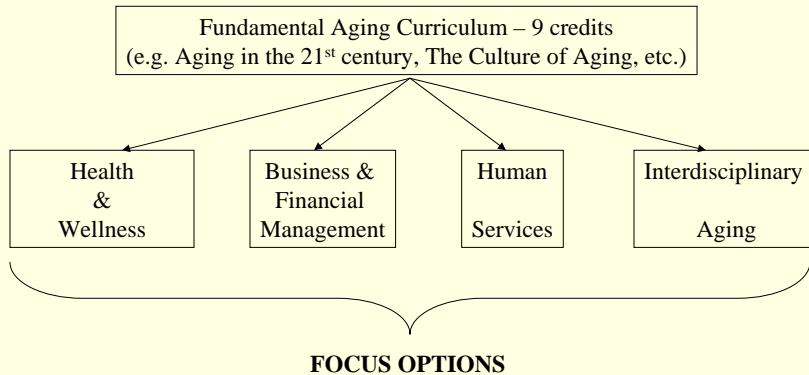


Certificate in Rural Aging

Vision for the Certificate in Rural Aging

15-20 credits

Service Learning Component



Needs Analysis

- Purpose of Needs Analysis
- Stakeholder Identification & Involvement
- Phases of Needs Analysis
 - a. Phase I – Those who employ, provide and educate students
 - b. Phase II – Students interested in this discipline
 - c. Phase III – Seniors in Regions 1 & 2 who would use these services



Preliminary Results of Needs Analysis

- **Total Surveys Distributed:** *n = 620*
- **Total Surveys Returned:** *n = 107*
- **Current Response Rate:** *17%*
- **Total Returned Region 1:** *n= 52*
- **Total Returned Region II:** *n=47*
- **Total Southeast Washington:** *n=8*



Analysis is Continuing at this Time

What are the education or training needs of those providing services to the aged living in rural Idaho?

- #1 Understanding of aging process and culture of aging
- #2 Training caregivers
- #3 Communication Skills
- #4 Mental Health



What content should be included in an educational certificate in rural aging?

- #1 Aging content related to mental health, physical, emotional, spiritual, life transitions, and family relations
- #2 Grief and Loss
- #3 Communication Courses
- #4 Financial Planning



Related to aging, what continuing education content would be a benefit?

- Updated Alzheimer's / dementia education / depression – specific to rural areas
- Updated Medicaid, Medicare eligibility / rules / access training / navigation of programs
- Holistic Approach – looking at the person from a holistic perspective – interdisciplinary approaches
- Community resources & services – access, networking, new programs
- Best Practice – how to care for rural elders as whole persons
- Medication updates





Would your agency / facility help reimburse the expenses for employees who complete a certificate in rural aging?

- Yes n = 22
- No n = 13
- Depends n = 41
- No Answer n = 31



If a Certificate in Rural Aging was available, would you give hiring preference (all other things equal) to a potential employee who held one?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 Not Likely Very Likely

Mean = 6.6
 Median = 7.0
 Mode = 10
 No Answer = 8





Initial Qualitative Responses

- “This is a great idea. Hope your courses will be cutting edge best practice specific to rural elders...”
- “I am now retired, and accustomed to seeing relatives remaining very active in the community while working into their 70’s and 80’s. Barring the onset of Alzheimer’s, dementia, debilitating chronic condition, or serious illness, I think the key to healthier old age is having social interaction, plenty of activity, meaningful involvement, and contribution in the community.”
- “Coordination of services would be beneficial in a rural aging certificate where the recipient would have the skills to integrate and implement the information with regard to the whole person, not just a few areas.”



Long Term Plan & Vision

- Academic Certificate (with and without degree)
- Courses for Older Americans (credit and non-credit)
- Service Component
- Advisory Board
- Grants to Fund Aging Projects and Curricula
- Potential Home in New LCSC Nursing and Health Science Building



LCSC Center for Rural Aging Membership & Acknowledgements

■ Membership

Chris Ahlman, Ph.D., Associate Professor-LCSC: Social Work Program
Alice Bevans, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus; Idaho Commission on Aging
Marika Botha, Ph.D., Professor-LCSC: Kinesiology & Health Program
Brian L. Christenson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor-LCSC: Social Work Program
Susan Hill Crowley, M.S., RN, Faculty: North Idaho College
Mona Davis, Ph.D., Associate Professor-LCSC: Nursing & Health Sciences
Randal Eriksen, Ph.D., Associate Professor-LCSC: Business
Skeeter Lynch, BSW; MSW Student-Boise State University; Social Work Intern
Leanne Parker, Ph.D., Associate Professor-LCSC: Psychology Program
Christine Pharr, Ph.D., Dean of Academic Programs-LCSC
John R. Seaman, Ph.D., Professor-LCSC: Social Work Program
Terri Sullivan, LCSC; BSW Student

- Thank you to Lewis-Clark State College for funding the needs analysis project & travel
- A special thank you to Alice Bevans and the Idaho Commission on Aging for this opportunity

In Closing

Thank You
Further Questions?



Primary Contact Information

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