

# University of Southern Indiana Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



## AIM Nursing Home Consortium Monthly Newsletter September 2025

### This Month's Focus: Dementia

## What is the AIM Nursing Home Consortium?

### Join the USI GWEP AIM Nursing Home Consortium!

The [USI Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\)](#) has established a [nursing home consortium, AIM \(Advance, Improve, Move\)](#), designed to support nursing home leaders with education and innovative opportunities to grow age- and dementia-friendly care.

### How to Join?

Become an AIM Nursing Home Consortium member by attending one of our quarterly educational meetings or [opting in to one or more of our initiatives](#).

### Quarterly Educational Meetings

Quarterly meetings featuring national and regional experts will be hosted on Zoom, with [free continuing education credits](#) offered at each meeting.

### Upcoming meeting:

**Wednesday, October 29**

**1-2:30 p.m. CT**

**Topic: Rejuvenating Resident's Councils**

[Zoom Link](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)



The AIM Nursing Home Consortium is made possible through the USI GWEP. Continuing education credits are provided by the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning - funded by the Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.

## Alzheimer's Association



### Upcoming Project ECHO® Series

#### *Team-Based Educational Series*

Starting in October:

#### **Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Care Navigation**

*Who can be involved:* This program is open to individual care navigators nationwide, including those at GUIDE and non-GUIDE sites. Ideal participants include Social Workers, Community Health Workers, Nurses, Behavioral Health, Case Managers, Nurse Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, Healthcare Administrators, Nutritionists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists and Nurse Managers.

#### **Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Primary Care**

*Who can be involved:* This opportunity is specifically catered to care teams in primary care, family medicine and internal medicine. Geriatric and other specialty clinics are welcome on a case-by-case basis.

Starting in January:

#### **Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Professional Care Providers in Nursing Homes**

*Who can be involved:* This program is open to professional care provider teams for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia in Nursing Homes. Ideal participants include Nursing Home Administrators, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Social Workers, Activity Coordinators and Resident Care Coordinators.

## Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Professional Care Providers in Assisted Living

*Who can be involved:* This program is open to professional care provider teams for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia in Assisted Living or Lifeplan Communities. Ideal participants include Nursing Home Administrators, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Social Workers, Activity Coordinators and Resident Care Coordinators.

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If you are interested, please complete the survey below, and specifically select "Alzheimer's Association® Project ECHO®"

[Project ECHO Survey](#)

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## essentiALZ® Staff Training and Certification



Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ® dementia care training and certification, is a three-hour, online, self-paced training that educates professional care providers on current evidence-based, person-centered practices to care for individuals living with dementia.

[More about AA's essentiALZ® Staff Training and Certification](#)

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If you are interested, please complete the survey below, and specifically select "Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ® Dementia Care Training and Certification."

[essentiALZ Survey](#)



## 2025 Walk To End Alzheimer's AA's Largest Fundraiser

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Find Your 2025 Walk and join the community to help fight this disease. [#Walk2EndAlz](#) [#ENDALZ](#)

[Find Your 2025 Walk](#)

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## Helpful Resources Provided by AA

Get the latest Alzheimer's Association data, apps, and websites following the links below.

- ALZPro™ ([website](#) and [flyer](#))
- My ALZ Journey App ([website](#) and [flyer](#))

The Alzheimer's Association logo, featuring the words "alzheimer's" and "association" in a lowercase, dark blue sans-serif font, separated by a stylized icon of two interlocking loops. The logo is set against a solid purple rectangular background.

- U.S. POINTER Results ([website](#) and [flyer](#))
- 2025 Indiana Alzheimer's Statistics ([flyer](#))
- 2025 Kentucky Alzheimer's Statistics ([flyer](#))
- Alzheimer's Association Presentation ([PowerPoint](#))

## Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities

### Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities

#### *Age- and Dementia-Friendly Status*



The Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities (DFIC) organization is doing amazing things for the state of Indiana. Through education, community engagement, and business training, DFIC helps Indiana communities recognize and respond compassionately to cognitive changes, promoting dignity and connection.

There will be a DFIC breakfast meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 8 - 10 a.m. CT located at the University of Southern Indiana on the 3rd floor of the Health Professions building. All DFIC members are welcome to attend. Please email Dr. Kevin Valadares at [kvaladar@usi.edu](mailto:kvaladar@usi.edu) if you are interested in attending.

#### **Event Details:**

- When: Wednesday, January 28th, from 8 - 10 a.m. CT
- Where: University of Southern Indiana
- What: DFIC annual breakfast meeting

[More about Dementia Friendly Indiana Communities](#)

## Dementia Outreach Specialists

### Dementia Outreach Specialist *Professional Resource Funded by Indiana Government*

Dementia Outreach Specialists' (DOS) primary functions are to provide education and outreach that promote increased community awareness of dementia and the resources available to support individuals with dementia and their care partners. In addition, DOS are tasked with Community and Health Organization Collaboration and are responsible to establish relationships with healthcare providers, health plans, health maintenance organizations and other community-based organizations. DOS can provide dementia resources in the provision of dementia information through multiple forms and formats, including dementia education which includes, but is not limited to, an array of dementia education programs ranging from in-person or virtual presentations/trainings to dementia simulation programs.



Feel free to reach out to a DOS which should be available at your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The southwestern Indiana region has two DOS: one at [Generations](#) in Vincennes (Brenda Hancock [bhancock@vinu.edu](mailto:bhancock@vinu.edu)) and one at [SWIRCA & More](#) in Evansville (Rhonda Walsh [rwalsh@swirca.org](mailto:rwalsh@swirca.org)). You can read more about the role of the DOS in the 2024 Dementia Strategic Plan Annual Report linked below.

[2024 Dementia Strategic Plan Annual Report](#)

# Brain Health Educational Series

## Brain Health Series *Free Educational Series*

Would you, your staff, or your clients be interested in learning about the top modifiable risk factor for dementia? Join SWIRCA & More for an insightful series of presentations about brain health. The first session led by Dr. Angela Graves, a local practicing audiologist, will explore the critical link between hearing loss and dementia. The second session led by Emily Holt, Chair of the USI Dental Hygiene and Assisting Programs and Clinical Professor of Dental Hygiene and Assisting, will dive into the connection between oral health and dementia. The presentations will be hosted at [SWIRCA & More](#) in Evansville, IN in the Activity Center. We're excited to welcome you to these informative brain health sessions!



### Session 1: Auditory Health

- When: Thursday, September 25th, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. CT
- Where: SWIRCA & More
- What: Brain Health Event – No reservation needed, drop by and join us! ([flyer](#))

### Session 2: Oral Health

- When: Wednesday, October 29th, from 1:30 - 3 p.m. CT
- Where: SWIRCA & More
- What: Brain Health Event – No reservation needed, drop by and join us! ([flyer](#))



## Dementia Friends Indiana

### Dementia Friends Indiana Sessions *Training (In-Person and Online Options)*



A Dementia Friend is someone who wants to make a positive difference in the lives of people living with dementia through increased awareness and support. Even small changes can help support people living with dementia to remain included, accepted and connected with their community. There are 17,106 Dementia Friends in Indiana right now. You can become one by attending a local education session. This is also a great resource for those recently diagnosed with dementia, their family members, staff, and other members of the community.

[SWIRCA & More](#) in Evansville, IN hosts Dementia Friends Indiana Sessions once a month. But you can find sessions like this and more across the state by following the link below.

[More about Dementia Friends Indiana](#)

## More Opportunities



## Administrator-In-Training (AIT) Preceptor Training *Synchronous Online Training*

Become a [Certified Administrator-in-Training \(AIT\) Preceptor](#) in just one day! Join the training [online](#) on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET for a dynamic, IPLA board-approved training designed for Health Facility Administrators. If you're an HFA today, someone once precepted you - now it's your chance to pay it forward and support the next generation of administrators. This interactive, virtual

course fulfills the state-required educational hours for nursing home preceptors and awards 8 continuing education credits upon completion. The training goes beyond lectures - expect group work, problem-solving and engaging activities throughout the day. Residential facilities may opt in, though training is not required for them. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your preceptor eligibility requirements in just eight hours!

### Event Details:

- When: Wednesday, January 28th, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET
- Where: Online
- What: AIT Preceptor Training – become certified to precept future HFAs!

[Learn more about USI's undergraduate-level AIT program here.](#)

[Learn more about USI's graduate-level AIT program here.](#)

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If you are interested, please complete the survey below, and specifically select  
"Administrator-in-Training Preceptor Training for Staff."

[AIT Preceptor Training Survey](#)



## Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care *On-Site Dementia Care Training*

USI has staff that are Positive Approach to Care® (PAC) Certified Trainers. They can come on-site and provide a PAC training session for staff to know how to better care for older adults, especially those living with dementia.

[More about Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care](#)

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If you are interested, please complete the survey below, and specifically select "Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care® in-service"

[PAC Trainer In-Service Survey](#)

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## Dementia Live® *Dementia Simulation*

Dementia Live® is a high impact, dementia simulation experience that immerses participants into life with dementia, resulting in a deeper understanding of what it's like to live with cognitive impairment and sensory change. This opportunity delivers immersive dementia training experiences that enhance empathy and understanding to all.

The USI GWEP will send one of our certified Dementia Live® coaches to your facility to perform the simulation.



*"Because it's frightening to care for someone you don't understand"*

Dementia Simulation and Awareness Training

by



www.ageucate.com

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If you are interested in these resources, please complete the survey below, and specifically select "Dementia Live®."

[Dementia Live Survey](#)

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## Other Dementia-Related Resources

- [Dementia Friendly USI/Evansville - University of Southern Indiana](#)
- [Dementia Friendly Northside Evansville | Facebook](#)
- [Dementia Friendly Communities Resource Corner - University of Southern Indiana](#)
- [Dementia Friendly Communities - University of Southern Indiana](#)
- [Building a Dementia Competent Workforce - University of Southern Indiana](#)

## Scholarly Article

### Scholarly Article about Dementia

**"Annual Wellness Visits and Early Dementia Diagnosis Among Medicare Beneficiaries"**

Abstract:

"Importance: Early recognition of cognitive impairment is key to optimal dementia care. No previous research has examined the probability of developing mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or Alzheimer disease and related dementias (ADRD) at 5-year follow-up among older adult Medicare beneficiaries by receipt of an annual wellness visit (AWV)..."



[Read More](#)

## Recent Activities

**Nursing and OTA Clinical Sites Added!**

A great need was fulfilled because our community decided to step up! The USI GWEP recently added various clinical sites for both nursing and OTA students at USI for Fall II 2025. Thank you to our partners that have so kindly offered to host future healthcare professionals at their facilities, allowing them to gain experience in long-term care. Thank you to all our clinical site partners, past, present, and future. Let's continue to improve the geriatric workforce!

### Nursing

- River Oaks (Princeton, IN)
- West River (Evansville, IN)
- River Pointe (Evansville, IN)
- North River (Evansville, IN)
- Redbanks Colonial Terrace (Sebree, KY)

### OTA

- Cathedral Healthcare Center (Jasper, IN)
- Gentle Care Strategies (Vincennes, IN)
- Sycamore Care Strategies (Loogootee, IN)



## USI<sup>®</sup> GWEP

### Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

For additional information or any inquiries regarding the AIM Nursing Home Consortium, please contact Gracie Money, the USI GWEP Grant Coordinator.

gamoney@usi.edu

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Health Professions Center, 3092

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