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## **Announcing the Formation of the Accreditation for Gerontology Education Council**

**Washington, DC – October 25, 2017-** The Board of Governors of the Accreditation for the Gerontology Education Council are pleased to announce the formation of the first accrediting body for the field of gerontology.

The Accreditation for Gerontology Education Council (AGEC) will specifically accredit degree-granting programs in gerontology at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's levels.

Accreditation of gerontology programs will promote professional credibility, expand employment opportunities for graduates, enhance institutional resources, and assure academic program excellence.

"The time for gerontology accreditation has arrived.", inaugural President Harvey Sterns, PhD (University of Akron) states. "Our field is ready. Our programs are ready. Our students are ready. The promise of accreditation will assist in propelling the quality of gerontology, and career opportunities for our graduates forward."

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education's *Standards and Guidelines for Gerontology and Geriatrics Programs*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, (2015) and *Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education* (2014) inform AGEC's accreditation standards.

### **About the Accreditation for Gerontology Education Council**

AGEC is a 501c3 organization that collaborates with, but is independent from, the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. A diverse nine-member Board of Governors (Jan Abu-Shakrah, Portland Community College; Robert Maiden, Alfred University; Reginald Mitchell, student representative; Joseph Ruby, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Donna Schafer, National Association for Professional Gerontologists; Harvey Sterns, University of Akron; Robbyn Wacker, University of Northern Colorado; Donna Weinreich, Western Michigan University; and Jeanette Young, consumer representative) oversees AGEC.

AGEC's mission is to serve societies, national and global, by establishing and applying standards that assure quality and continuous improvement in the preparation of gerontologists reflecting the evolving nature of higher education, research, and practice.

**For further details please visit:**

<http://www.geroaccred.org/>

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