

CSWE Gero-Ed Forum



Gero-Ed Forum 2007: A Conference to Remember! Conference Summary

The CSWE Gero-Ed Center's 2007 Gero-Ed Forum, held in Charleston, SC from February 2-4, 2007, was a huge success with social work educators and students from across the U.S. With the theme "Infusing Gerontology Across the Classroom & Field: Planning, Implementing and Resourcing," the Forum focused *solely* on providing *all* faculty with the opportunity and resources to "gerontologize" their programs.

One of the most unique features of the Gero-Ed Forum was the Showcase Event and Reception, co-sponsored by AGE-SW, BPD, Hartford GSWI, IGSW, NASW and PPP. This event included 50 electronic poster, table-top, video and roundtable presentations highlighting the best practices in gerontology infusion from across the United States.

Over the course of the two and a half days, participants selected from 17 intensive workshops that focused on various aspects of infusing gerontology across the classroom and field. All of the workshops were packed! Participants were asked to fill out Action Plans based on the ideas from each workshop to be used upon their return to their program. Participants also gained valuable knowledge of the grant making process during the "Stump the Funder" event, where a panel of grant funders, moderated by James O'Sullivan of the John A. Hartford Foundation, answered funding questions from participants.

The Forum kicked off with keynote speaker Kathy Kohner Zuckerman, AKA Gidget, an American surfing pop culture icon who started surfing again as an older adult. This event drew a standing room only crowd of over 200 participants and served as an example of productive aging. The educational component of the Forum was launched with a general session by Drs. Phyllis Black, Chair of the CSWE Commission on Curriculum and Educational Innovation, and JoAnn Damron-Rodriguez, UCLA. The two presented the latest in competency-based education (CBE) from the perspective of both the future direction of CSWE and the history of CBE in gerontological social work education to another large crowd.

Overall, the conference provided participants with innovative ideas for infusing their curriculum and finding funding for implementing these changes. Resources from the Forum will soon be available on our Web site (www.Gero-EdCenter.org).