

# Rural Geriatrics Career Network

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
11-11:45pm MT



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

Wyoming Center  
on Aging

The Rural Geriatrics Career network provides a repository of geriatrics career resources and a professional network between clinical trainees and established geriatrics professionals.

Learn more about geriatric career resources and network with other interprofessional geriatrics trainees, students, residents, fellows, faculty and professionals as you build a career network.



*This session will be audio/video recorded. YOUR PARTICIPATION CONFIRMS CONSENT*



*The Wyoming Center on Aging receives federal funding to implement our many programs. In concert with new federal guidance, we are required to verify eligibility of our program participants to benefit from these programs. The Public Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) mandates the verification of eligibility for federal public benefits.*

*ATTESTATION: The University of Wyoming program in which I seek to participate is federally funded and, therefore, requires verification of my eligibility. By attending this event I certify under penalty of perjury that I am a US Citizen, US Non-Citizen National, or Qualified Alien, that I am at least 18 years old or older, competent to complete this certification, and that I am attesting to this qualification voluntarily. If I am the parent or legal guardian of a minor or dependent adult, I attest to the above language and authorize their participation.*

# Agenda

11-11:45pm MT

- 11:00-11:10: Introduction
- 11:10-11:30: Presentation
- 11:30-11:40: Discussion
- 11:40-11:45: Resources and Current/Upcoming Educational Opportunities



# Across the Aging Spectrum: Gifts and Challenges

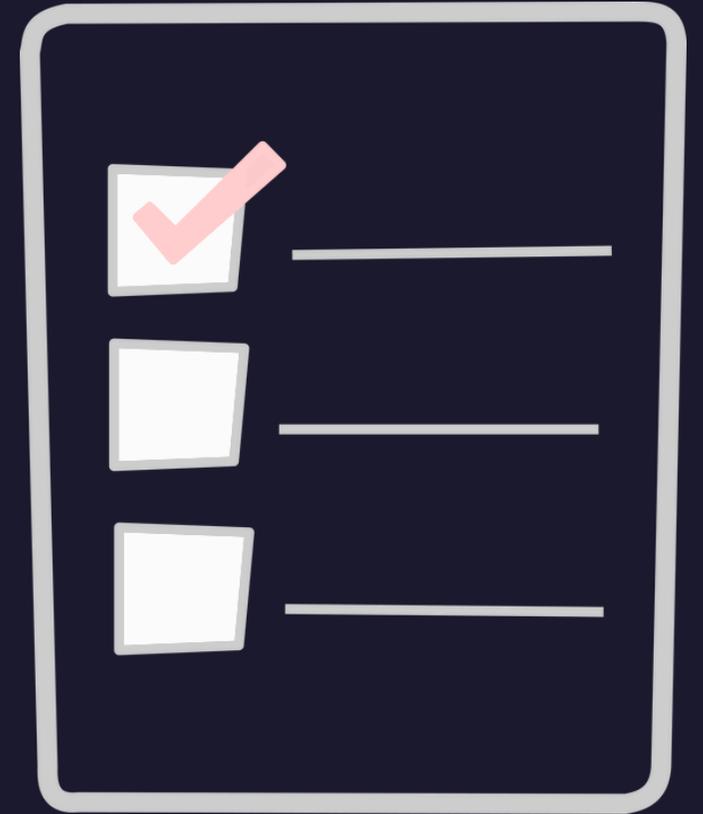


## Carol Taylor, LCSW. Geriatric Social Work

Carol Taylor's mission has always been clear and consistent: to model and promote the compassionate care of older adults as they age and move toward the end of their lives. Helping clients and their families navigate the challenges of dementia with a sense of agency is a particular area of expertise in her work. Shortly after earning both a master's degree in social work and a graduate degree from the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Denver, Carol moved to the Tetons where she has practiced geriatric and medical social work for over 40 years.

# During this presentation we will...

- Explore the gifts and challenges of working with the elderly.
- Identify clinical and personal skills/assets that enhance our effectiveness.
- Recognize the unique opportunities in working with elders.





## Across the Aging Spectrum: Personal Reflections

- Where did your interest in working with elders begin?
- Have you had older friends and family throughout your life?
- Recall a story, experience or memory you had with an elder...
- What draws you to this client group?

# Gifts

- In my experience, working with elders brings a deep sense of satisfaction; it takes so little... (100-year-old Morgie)
- Clinical skill development is essential.
- Self-exploration and introspection will deepen your work; honesty is demanded.
- Select group of professionals with unique perspectives and client experiences.
- You will be changed by working with elders.



# Potential Challenges



Many in our culture and medical fields demonstrate ageism (Dr. Butler).



Facing scrutiny from colleagues.



Finding your voice, honing advocacy skills.



If working in rural areas, more challenges re: resources.



# Robert Butler, MD

- Visionary, researcher, social justice advocate.
- Geriatric Psychiatrist.
- Founding Director of the **National Institute on Aging**.
- Renowned gerontologist who authored over 300 articles.
- Coined the word “**ageism**” in 1968.
- In 1976 wrote Pulitzer prize winning “Why Survive: Being Old in America”.
- Established the first department of geriatrics in a US medical school.

# Your Presence Matters

*Brilliant poetess Maya Angelou offers her wise counsel to us –*

People may forget what you said

People may forget what you did

But people will never forget how  
you made them feel





# Discussion

What are your takeaways from today's session?

# Resources

**Geriatrics Career Conversations:** Exploring the world of geriatrics through conversations with leading geriatric specialists. Each conversation features an expert who shares their unique journey and passion for working with older adults, offering inspiration for aspiring healthcare professionals.

**Toolkits and Products:** Free new toolkits and products for download include: The Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly Care Preceptor Toolkit, Rural Community Linkage Toolkit, Geriatrics Career Resources Collection, Student Success Resource Guide for Students, and more! See which product can help support YOUR work!

**Minor in Aging Studies:** The demand for professionals with expertise in aging is growing rapidly. Whether your interest is in healthcare, social services, business, or a number of other fields, a Minor in Aging Studies will complement your declared major!

**Wyoming Family Practice Geriatric Fellowship Program:** The goal of this program is to train internists and family practitioners for careers in clinical practice, teaching, administration and research in geriatrics, with an emphasis on rural care of geriatric patients.

**Online Educational Recordings on Aging Topics:** These online educational modules/videos are previously recorded WyCOA workshops, online trainings, and webinars that were taught by experts in the field

**Want to get more info on experiences and resources in your discipline? Contact WyCOA today!**



# Current/Upcoming Educational Opportunities



- **UW ECHO in Geriatrics**

Through the UW ECHO® in Geriatrics, healthcare professionals throughout the region have the opportunity to receive best-practice recommendations for consideration in management of older adults. You are invited to present challenging cases for discussion and feedback to a network of colleagues as well as a specialist care team. Each ECHO network will also feature a brief community discussion on a variety of important topics related to geriatrics

- **Dementia Care Certificate**

The dementia care certificate is designed for professional direct care providers of older adults across care settings. The goal of the certificate is to increase providers' knowledge of dementia and to enhance confidence in caring for people with dementia.

- **Healthy U, now housed under Healthier Wyoming!**

Healthy U is Wyoming's chronic disease self-management program, available to any person interested in learning personal health care empowerment techniques. Become a leader in your area!

- **Educational and Training Opportunities:** upcoming options!

And more!



Join the  
WYCOA  
Email list!



# Evaluation and Feedback Survey

*Thank you!*  
Next Meeting Fall 2026



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