

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION

ENDORSEMENT OF AGE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, population aging is a worldwide, national, state and local phenomenon that is transforming societies, institutions, families, and businesses, requiring us to reframe our thoughts and actions about the opportunities and needs of an aging population; and

WHEREAS The World Health Organization sought to proactively address these demographic changes in 2005 with the establishment of the Age Friendly Cities initiative; and

WHEREAS, The Age Friendly Universities Global Network, founded in 2012, recognizes the crucial role that universities play as change-agents and has identified the distinctive contributions institutions of higher education can make in responding to the interests and needs of adult learners and an aging population, through the development of 10 guiding principles for Age-Friendly Universities; and

WHEREAS, Stockton University's **Mission** (to develop engaged and effective citizens with a commitment to life-long learning and the capacity to adapt to change in a multi-cultural, interdependent world), **Vision** (as a community builder and partner in public service ... committed to the positive development of New Jersey through scholarship and creative activity, civic engagement, and active stewardship), and **Values** (with a commitment to inclusivity and diversity by building a community that values differences including age) are fully consistent with the principles of Age Friendly Universities; and

WHEREAS, Stockton's commitment to New Jersey's older adults has been clearly and consistently demonstrated by our Gerontology Program (founded in 1978, a Program-of-Merit of the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education), the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (founded in 2007 with a mission to nurture body, mind, and spirit of New Jersey's older adults through research, education and service); and

WHEREAS, several other Stockton University departments, offices, services, programs, and facilities support and encourage involvement by adults and older adults (including the Office of Continuing Studies, the Stockton Center for Community Engagement, Friends of Encore Learning at Stockton, Stockton University Retiree Association, Office of Veterans Affairs, Kramer Hall, Stockton at Manahawkin, Stockton's Atlantic City Campus and designation as an Anchor Institution, and many others); and

WHEREAS, involvement by Stockton in the Age Friendly University Global Network will bring distinction to Stockton, provide a valuable guiding framework for illuminating and evaluating how Stockton can shape age-friendly programs

and practices for adults of all ages, identify gaps and opportunities for growth, and to contribute to an educational movement of social, personal, and economic benefit to students of all ages.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate supports the University endorsement of the 10 Principles of Age Friendly University and encourages the University to continue to support age-friendly programs and policies for the benefit of the University, its student of all ages, and its community.

November 15, 2018 (pending)

ADDENDUM: TEN PRINCIPLES OF AGE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES

1. To encourage the participation of older adults in all the core activities of the university, including educational and research programs.
2. To promote personal and career development in the second half of life and to support those who wish to pursue second careers.
3. To recognize the range of educational needs of older adults (from those who were early school-leavers through to those who wish to pursue Master's or PhD qualifications).
4. To promote intergenerational learning to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.
5. To widen access to online educational opportunities for older adults to ensure a diversity of routes to participation.
6. To ensure that the university's research agenda is informed by the needs of an ageing society and to promote public discourse on how higher education can better respond to the varied interests and needs of older adults.
7. To increase the understanding of students of the longevity dividend and the increasing complexity and richness that aging brings to our society.
8. To enhance access for older adults to the university's range of health and wellness programs and its arts and cultural activities.
9. To engage actively with the university's own retired community.
10. To ensure regular dialogue with organizations representing the interests of the aging population.

Source and Background: <https://www.aghe.org/19-resources?tmpl=component&print=1&page=>