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National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE)

NAGE is a non-profit membership organization representing Geriatric Education Centers (GECs) and other programs that provide education and training to health professionals in the areas of geriatrics and gerontology. Our work includes faculty training and fellowships, continuing education, and hands on experiences in the clinical setting. One of our priorities is to educate policy makers and the public about the need for health care professionals to receive geriatrics education so they will better serve the expanding older population.

We are dedicated to improving the education and training, supply, distribution, diversity, and quality of health care professionals for existing and future programs targeting older people, and we advocate for the necessary resources to do this work. In part, our success is based on building strong community-academic partnerships which improve the quality of health care for all older adults, including the underserved and minorities, and therefore reducing disparities.

We bring together representatives of NAGE member organizations to facilitate the development and distribution of educational resources and technical assistance; create and activate mechanisms to develop and disseminate policies that strengthen and enrich the availability and quality of geriatric and gerontology education, and collaborate with other groups that have an interest in issues related to health care in geriatrics and gerontology.

The **Geriatric Education Center (GEC) grants** were first awarded in 1984 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions (DHHS-HRSA, BHP) to SUNY at Buffalo, Harvard University, Michigan University, and University of Southern California. These initial four grantees are known as the "Four Fathers". In 1985, an additional 16 grantees were added and known as the "Sweet Sixteen". Annual meetings of the GEC's were held thereafter at workshops hosted by various GEC's – the first was in Ann Arbor, the 2nd at Harvard, the 3rd at Buffalo, the 4th in Houston, and the 5th in Milwaukee. In 1989, discussions were first held to form a national association of and for GEC's. After convening a sixth workshop in Clearwater Beach, FL and a seventh workshop in San Antonio, the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC) organization was officially established to promote interdisciplinary geriatric education and to provide a unified voice for the GEC's.

After more than a decade of successfully working alongside each other, the GEC's collectively wanted to pursue additional funding opportunities and service contracts. They also felt the need to maintain at least one lobbyist in Washington DC to protect the GEC's interests. A lawyer was hired and all legal options were explored by the NAGEC Board. In 2005, the GEC's voted to form two non-profit organizations due to restrictions related to lobbying activities: the National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE, a 501c4 organization—an umbrella organization which includes all geriatric related education programs) and the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC, a 501c3 organization—limited to Geriatric Education Centers). Today these two organizations continue to unify the GEC's to advance interprofessional geriatric education.