

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose.  
(See the AAIDD *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

## Interest Network: Gerontology

### Lead Contact Person(s):

Alisa Jordan Sheth, Chair; Laura Robinson, Vice-Chair; Valerie Perkoski, Board Member at Large; Jessica Hoyle- SECP Liaison and Board Member at Large

### Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:

Nominations for open positions were solicited between April-June, 2025. No positions were contested, so no elections were held. Open positions of Secretary and Board Members at Large remain and will be filled on a rolling basis based on interest.

### 2024-2025 Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

The board held meetings in August 2024, October 2024, January 2025, April 2025, and June 2025. Meetings in October 2024 and April 2025 were open to all interested network members and served as both networking opportunities and business meetings. The June 2025 meeting was held in person at the AAIDD Annual Conference.

In Fall 2024, the leadership created and distributed a survey to assess membership needs, interests, and guide future network activities.

The Interest Network created a LinkedIn page to provide updates on meetings, events, and other relevant announcements. They also sent out periodic emails to the membership to advertise upcoming events.

The board made a call for proposals to organize a panel for the 2025 annual conference, but did not receive any interest this year. Interest Network funds were used to award one Merit Award to a SECP gerontology-related conference presentation and one gift card prize for the SECP reception. We also continued with our "Aging Rocks" pins to advertise the interest network at the Annual Conference.

In March 2025, the interest network helped organize a webinar with Drs. Valerie Perkoski and Mary Shotwell entitled "Promoting Physical Activity in Adults with Multiple Disabilities"

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## 2025-2026 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

- 1) *Board meetings will continue to be held once every two months.*
- 2) *The network will participate in at least one student and early career professional (SECP) network meeting to raise awareness about the gerontology interest network and continue to review SECP abstracts for scholarship awards.*
- 3) *The board will put out a call for aging-related presentations for the annual meeting and organize a panel based on the response.*
- 4) *The network will organize at least one webinar.*
- 5) *Funds will be utilized to award conference scholarships and/or memberships. Special consideration will be given to conference proposals that address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.*