

Aging Action Initiative

Addressing community issues through the lens of aging

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Lifelong Learning Together

By Gary Gonser and Leonard Weingarten

Marin's active adults have a wealth of knowledge and rich life experiences which can make all our lives more complete and fuller. Is there a subject that your clients or residents have a desire to learn? Are they curious about various fields? Would they like to share or expand their artistic ability or intellectual knowledge? Would they like to connect with other adults to share their knowledge and interests?

Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM) is a part of the College's Community Education Department and has been offering engaging programs for active adults that connect, educate and entertain for almost 50 years. College of Marin's President David Wain Coon has referred to ESCOM as "an army of influencers!"

As a pioneer in the innovative use of community education for adults, ESCOM was cited as a national model by the National Institute of Education and has helped many colleges initiate similar programs. There are no educational or financial requirements for older adults to participate. They only need a desire to learn and enjoy!

ESCOM offers a diverse range of over 20 clubs that educate and entertain. These include "The Book Forum," "Digital Camera Club," "The Relationship Between Theology and Society," "Philosophy Club," "Reading Great Plays" and "The Glorious Food Club."

ESCOM is 100% volunteer driven and our mission is to foster life-long learning opportunities for adults in Marin County and beyond. The lifelong learning programs, clubs, lectures, events and celebrations are offered on-line or in person at our comfortable meeting rooms at both the Kentfield and Indian Valley campuses.

In addition to our many clubs, ESCOM members are welcome to contribute to our monthly online newsletter and journal of photography, art and creative writing. Through our monthly "Spotlight Presents" programs, our members have explored engaging conversations with many personalities including Sanja Kulenovic, author of "The Siege of Sarajevo" and regional civic and governmental leaders including Lori Frugoli, Marin County's District Attorney, and Edward Anderton from the Buck Institute on Aging,

Our members also believe in the value of giving back. ESCOM is developing a new exciting intergenerational program to assist College of Marin students as they enter the work world or prepare to transfer to a four year university. We want to assist our future leaders as they move forward in their lives, to maximize the value of their College of Marin experience and to develop and share their passions.

Being part of ESCOM provides our members opportunities to stay mentally and socially engaged, share their knowledge, expand their friendships and stay current on local to international affairs. We are interested in developing mutually beneficial relationships with organizations that serve and support our growing active senior community. In addition to the Aging Action Initiative, a few other organizations that we have partnered with include Marin County's Department of Health & Human Services, Age Friendly Intergenerational Center, Marin Section on Aging and Marin Villages. If you are involved with an organization that works with an older active audience, let's talk and see how we can work together.

Last year, College of Marin was voted #1 Community College in the state and #5 out of 839 community colleges in the United States, according to Academic Influencers. With the participation from you and the seniors you serve, we can build on these accomplishments. Are you ready to move forward?

Enhance the lives of your clients. Encourage your seniors to be involved and share their knowledge so we can learn together and from each other. To learn about and to join ESCOM, please visit our [website](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

Gary Gonser, on the left, is ESCOM's President and Leonard Weingarten, right, is ESCOM's Vice President. They can be reached at escom@marin.edu

