

SENG Gifted Elders Initiative

SENG and other advocates for gifted individuals identify gifted elders primarily for the roles they serve as doting grandparents, dedicated donors, and stellar role models for long-term gifted education advocacy. Unfortunately, we know little about this unique and skillful group beyond tales of a few elders' great achievements. Despite their large and growing numbers, we lack a sound awareness of their needs or how we can meet those needs effectively. Even in the most commonly recognized gifted-related areas of intellectual, creative, social, and emotional functioning, we fall short in our understanding and our support of aging gifted individuals in our world. We know little about how their needs vary across the world landscape as regards gender, race, geography, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other important variables.

SENG, through the SENNG Gifted Elders Initiative, dedicates itself to learning more about, and thus helping, those who have nurtured so many gifted children and grandchildren and who have been instrumental in bringing the world's dreams into reality. They have blazed trails for us in giftedness, in education, and in all other fields. They are a treasure we must continue to nurture. We intend, through increased research studies, publications, presentations, advocacy, and networking with related organizations, to reap their wisdom, to support their needs, and to nourish their spirit. We hope that as a result of our efforts, our gifted elders can use their minds, spirits, and ample skills to the fullest extent possible. By assisting them, we will learn about our very selves, as we inevitably take their places.

I. Goals.

1. To collect and perform a meta-analysis of existing research regarding the characteristics, and the approaches for meeting the social-emotional, intellectual, learning, creative, and leadership needs of the gifted aging.
2. To identify the needed areas of research regarding gifted elders (e.g., the needs of aging gifted with dementia, the needs of gifted seniors in group residential facilities). Additionally, to invite researchers to collaborate with SENNG in conducting needed research.
3. To identify needed areas of research regarding diverse gifted elders (e.g., different cultures, disabilities, sexual orientations).
4. To disseminate existing and new findings regarding the elderly gifted population.
5. To grow awareness of the needs of older gifted individuals in the many places we find them – in isolation, in families and communities, within organizations and governmental agencies – and to advocate for differentiated services for the elderly gifted.
6. To invite other associations to collaborate in advocating for gifted elders.

II. Objectives

1. As a result of the collection and analysis of research on the characteristics, and approaches to meeting the diverse needs of elder gifted individuals, the SENNG Gifted Elders Initiative will:
 - Draft professional research articles that display the results.
 - Publish professional research articles in appropriate journals in the field of gifted research, gerontology, and other identified journals.
2. As a result of the identification of needed areas of research regarding the gifted elders, the SENNG Gifted Elders Initiative will:

- Conduct research and develop articles that add to the existing body of research.
 - Invite other researchers to collaborate in the research or to conduct independent research.
 - Secure funding to develop a brochure to share with targeted groups and organizations, as well as elder gifted individuals.
3. As a result of the dissemination of existing and new findings regarding aging gifted individuals, the SENG Gifted Elders Initiative group will:
- Survey and identify changing attitudes regarding the population.
4. As a result of growing the awareness of the needs of elderly gifted individuals within their many settings, the SENG Gifted Elders Initiative will:
- Present and invite others to present at targeted conferences.
 - Publish and invite others to publish in targeted journals.
5. As a result of inviting other associations to collaborate in advocating for the gifted elders in the many environments in which they are represented, the SENG Gifted Elders Initiative group will:
- Develop relationships with targeted associations.