

Date: JUL 10 2019
From: Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)
Subj: Upcoming 2019 Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Leads Conference
To: Network Directors (10N1-23)

1. The purpose of this communication is to solicit names of participants to attend the upcoming 2019 GEC Leads Educational Conference, titled **VA Leading the Nation: Modernizing the Care of the Older Veteran through Innovation and Collaboration** from each Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN). The GEC Leads conference is scheduled for September 10-12, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference is offered by the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (10NC4) in affiliation with the Employee Education System (EES), targeting leaders in Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) and Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC). In alignment with VA GEC's strategic plan, VHA Transformation Initiatives, and VHA foundational services' top three priorities (model fidelity, high risk patient populations, telehealth/access). This 3-day face-to-face conference will advance participants' knowledge of innovative GEC programs, foster expertise for best practice implementation and evaluation, engage and connect participants to forge empowered partnerships, and drive the continuum of integrated, innovative, evidence-based and Veteran-centric care requisite to meeting the challenges of aging, disability and serious illness.

2. By direction of the Under Secretary for Health and due to the size of the venue, the conference is limited to 200 total participants, including EES staff and presenters. Participants should be GEC VISN, GRECC and facility leaders (geriatric health care professionals). Continuing education credit will be offered for medicine, nursing, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, pharmacy, rehabilitation therapies, social work and psychology professionals.

3. Each VISN is invited to submit the names of:

- a. One nominee for the VISN.
- b. One nominee from each medical center.
- c. One nominee from each GRECC within the VISN.

4. Participants should be selected based on their leadership of GEC programs, which positions them to apply, advocate and disseminate locally the knowledge they acquire from this event. Participants' travel, lodging, and expenses are the responsibility of the nominating VISN, VA facility or the participants themselves. Nominations should be submitted by email to

Upcoming 2019 GEC Leads Conference

Jeannie.Helton@va.gov, using an electronic version of Attachment 2 (Attendee Nominations for VISN) beginning **July 1, 2019**. All nominations must be sent received by midnight, **August 10, 2019**. Instructions to Travelers will be sent to the nominees by mid-August.

5. For more information about the conference or this call for participant nominations, please contact the conference co-chairs, Sumathi Misra, MD, MPH, VISN 9 GRECC Associate Directors for Education and Evaluation, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System by email at Sumathi.Misra@va.gov or Katharina Echt, PhD, VISN 7 Birmingham / Atlanta GRECC by email at Katharina.Echt@va.gov, and.


Renee Oshinski

Attachments (3)

1. Agenda
2. Attendee Nominations for VISN
3. Call for E-Poster Abstract Submissions.