



American
Society
on Aging

COHORT 2  **THE DISRUPTORS**

PROFESSIONAL BIOS



Liliana Garcia is a Community Center Director II with the County of Los Angeles Department of Aging and Disabilities. Ms. Garcia is responsible for managing the activities of Older Adults and administration of services at the Altadena Senior Center and the Altadena Community Center.

Previous to her assignments in Altadena, Ms. Garcia was the Center Director of Centro Maravilla Service Center in East Los Angeles and orchestrated the opening of the Potrero Heights Park Community & Senior Center in South San Gabriel in Los Angeles County.

Preceding becoming a Community Center Director, Ms. Garcia was the Program

Coordinator for the County of Los Angeles Citizenship Assistance Campaign, Public Charge Task Force, LIFE Act Outreach Campaign and the Traffic and Safety Program.

Ms. Garcia functioned as the Director of Naturalization Services for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) prior to joining Los Angeles County. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Chicana/o Studies from California State University, Northridge.

She is a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging’s ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Economic Security



Edem Hado is currently a Senior Strategic Policy Advisor at the AARP Public Policy Institute. In this role, she leads research projects, policy initiatives, and projects that enable older adults to get the care and services they want as they age in their homes and communities. She is passionate about creating a cohesive long-term care experience that is streamlined across the continuum of care systems and leveraging resources more intentionally and equitably to transform the long-term care system and improve outcomes for older adults.

Prior to joining AARP in 2019, she spent her professional career in the home-based care sector, specifically focused on care management and operational management. Within that focus, she worked with family caregivers to manage home care services for older adults as well as supporting, and training direct care workers.

Ms. Hado holds a Master of Public Health with a focus in health policy from Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in community health and preventive care from Brown University.

She is a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Social Impact & Innovation

Maurice Haskins, MSW, LCSW-C, is a licensed Clinical Social Worker centered in Washington, D.C., with a passion and specialty for working with Older Adults and their families. Currently, he is the Clinical Social Worker and Case Manager at the Inova Fair Oaks Hospital's Emergency Department.

Mr. Haskins draws on a vast array of expertise, having worked previously in variety of areas such as community development, education, non-profit management, and healthcare. Most notably, he has mastered the skill of delivering thorough and compassionate direct

care to patients, families, and communities through his years of clinical experience across healthcare settings and populations, including Traumatic Brain Injury, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Haskins obtained his Bachelor of Sociology and Master of Social Work degrees from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Clinical Social Work (DSW) in the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on older adults, family caregiving, and intergenerational relationships.

He is a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Health & Well-Being





Dr. **Christine Holmes** is the founder of and counselor at Hand in Hand Caregiver Counseling for elder caregiving stress and loss. She is also an adjunct professor at the Columbia School of Social Work where she teaches decolonizing social work.

Having begun her clinical practice with youth and families in NYC and Washington, D.C., Dr. Holmes discovered her passion for family caregiving as a case manager for the D.C. Superior Court's Guardianship Assistance Program. Afterward, Dr. Holmes counseled caregivers of parents living with Alzheimer's Disease for the NYU Caregiver Intervention study.

During the recent past, Dr. Holmes has served internationally in various capacities. She was Visiting Faculty for The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health in India where she led research on the history of colonial psychiatry in Kerala, India. Dr. Holmes was also a teacher trainer for Peace Corps-Cambodia and an advisor to local NGOs and universities.

Dr. Holmes earned her Doctor of Clinical Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a Master's in Social Work from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Arizona State University.

She is a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Health & Well-Being



Yesenia Jones, LCSW, currently serves as an Administrator for A Community of Caring, (ACC) in Sacramento Ca. She oversees two facilities, Greenhaven Terrace at ACC Senior Services and Maple Tree, an assisted living and memory care center. Ms. Jones is responsible for research, program planning, developing, implementing and evaluating all aspects of operations for both facilities. Additionally, Ms. Jones, leads the Care Transitions Team for ACC Senior Services.

In her role as Administrator, in 2020, she developed the “Independent Living Deluxe” program which has been adopted by the ACC Board of Directors. This packaged service option includes meals, transportation, trash service, wellness checks, etc.

Ms. Jones has over 10 years of experience working in both private and public sector housing developments. Additionally, she is a current member of CALA (California Assisted Living Association) and Leading Age California.

Ms. Jones holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University-Chico and a Master of Social Work with a specialization in Health and Aging from California State University-Sacramento. She also holds a Residential Care for the Elderly Certification. She is proud to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging’s ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Equity & Justice

Angela Melissa King is the Founder and Chief Giving Officer of Aging 100, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Aging 100's mission is to help Older Adults reach the age of 100 and beyond. As a direct reflection of our growing and diverse aging population, the goal of Aging 100 is to not only help improve the quality of life for Older Adults, but to aid them as they navigate the journey of aging.

As a first-generation college graduate, Ms. King, received a Master of Public Administration in Healthcare Administration and Policy and Nonprofit Management from Auburn University at Montgomery. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is also nationally recognized as a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) and previously worked as a Research Intern in the Cognition & Aging Lab at Georgia State University.

Ms. King volunteers extensively through local nonprofit groups and is a proud active member of the Young Nonprofit Professional Network, Junior League and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.

She is pleased to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Health & Well-Being





Dr. **Michelle Matter** is the Senior Policy Analyst at The Scan Foundation. She received her Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California. Dr. Matter’s dissertation was a promising practice study examining the benefits of senior nutrition programs as a cost savings to Medicare. Dr. Matter also has a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Healthcare Management, a Master of Arts in Gerontology and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

While serving as District Director for a California State Assemblymember, Dr. Matter developed an interest in public policy issues affecting Older Adults. She has completed extensive research on

senior housing, grandparents raising grandchildren and the lack of geriatricians in the United States. She has used her knowledge to advocate for federal and state legislation impacting Older Adults. She has also worked as Special Projects Director at Elder Help, San Diego, CA and Director of Communications and External Affairs at Serving Seniors, San Diego, CA.

Her experience working in the public, private, and non-profit sectors provide a unique outlook on innovative solutions to improve the quality of life for older adults. She is delighted to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging’s ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Economic Security



Christina Peoples is a Gerontologist from High Point, North Carolina. She is the founder and creator of Gero-what?!® an informative tool that aims to educate people about the aging process. Ms. Peoples' passion is working with Older Adults and she desires to educate people about the world of gerontology.

Currently, Ms. Peoples is a Health Promotion Coordinator at the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Peoples enjoys advocating for the rights of older adults and creating ways to enhance their well-being.

Ms. Peoples holds a Master of Science degree in Gerontology with a concentration in aging and business, which she obtained from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. However, her introduction into this field began at the Historically Black College/University, Winston-Salem State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology. She is excited to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Ageism & Culture

Jocelyn Powell is a clinical team lead at the Alzheimer Association® 24/7 Helpline. Since 2015, Ms. Powell has supported helpline specialists and care consultants who assist care partners and individuals living with dementia as they navigate care.

As a child, Ms. Powell witnessed how social inequity could impact health. The lessons learned from those experiences inspired a passion for eradicating health disparities. This passion led to a 15-year career in a variety of health settings, including establishing a care coordination program to improve care continuity and health outcomes, as well as reduce hospital



readmissions at PCC Community Wellness Center, a federally qualified health center. She also established relationships with nonprofit organizations and nontraditional partners to improve outreach and access to community services as an outreach associate at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association, she served as a care coordinator at Meridian Health Plan.

Ms. Powell earned a Master of Social Work with a specialization in Community Health and Urban Development from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology-Summa Cum Laude from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is pleased to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Health & Well-Being



Dr. **Linda Revilla**, is Director of Strategic Initiatives at Meals on Wheels by ACC, Sacramento CA. In this role, she provides operational and strategic leadership for the senior nutrition program serving 4000+ clients annually. In her work, she strives to understand the perspectives and needs of the diverse Older Adult clientele and to assist them as their life situations change.

Prior to working for ACC, Dr. Revilla has worked as a consultant and lecturer in ethnic studies and building partnerships. The theme of her career work has always been working with or in underserved communities. She is especially proud of bringing the Senior Community Services Employment

Program (SCSEP) to her former employer and diversifying the Older Adult population that was served.

Dr. Revilla is an active community volunteer and helps coordinate Filipino historical conferences and events. She earned her PhD & Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles and her Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of California, San Diego.

She is excited to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging’s ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Equity & Justice



Ashley Stevens is a Gerontological Social Worker and Dementia Practitioner for Mecklenburg County and the North Carolina Department of Aging & Adult Services. Ms. Stevens implements and leads training/education for community organizations and the general public to increase understanding of dementia. Additionally, in her work, she serves as Co-Chair of the Dementia Friendly – Charlotte Mecklenburg Initiative in North Carolina.

Introduced to Alzheimer’s disease at age 6, she watched it take a toll on her Great Grandma Trollie. Decades later, as a millennial, Ms. Stevens has found herself organically in the midst of the dementia world, collaborating with families. It is not just a job for Ms. Stevens – it is her passion. She has created “The Dementia Guru,” a dementia care and aging platform.

Ms. Stevens earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Gerontology from Bowling Green State University and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Ms. Stevens has a deep passion for increasing awareness for diverse caregiving communities and has her Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion certification through the University of South Florida. She also leads African American Alzheimer’s Support Groups for caregivers in the state of North Carolina. She is delighted to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging’s ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Ageism and Culture



Lisa Stovall is a Licensed Master Social Worker and is undertaking study for her PhD in Gerontology at Concordia University. Currently she works in New York City as a Psychiatric Social Worker at Bellevue Hospital Center and as a Social Worker at Lenox Hill Hospital. In both of her roles, she strives to create an age friendly health care system. Previously, she has worked as a Geriatric Social Worker.

Ms. Stovall is the co-director for Elder Care for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She collaborates with members of the sorority both nationally and abroad to increase awareness of the need of Older Adults. She is passionate about the field of geriatrics and looks forward to developing programs that address the needs of the homeless and abused Older Adults.

She earned her Master of Arts in Social Work from Fordham University and her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from York College. Additionally, she has a number of post-master certifications including an Aging in Place from Stonybrook University and a Mental Health and Aging from Adelphi University. She is thrilled to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Equity & Justice

Roosevelt Stripling is a Mobility Support Service Program Manager for Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA). He is responsible for coordinating various programs that make public transit accessible for Older Adults and persons with disabilities. He is also responsible for coordinating one-on-one and group travel instruction for Older Adults and individuals with disabilities, in partnership with agencies, such as the Atlanta Public Schools, Fulton County Office of Senior Services and the Shepard Center for Rehabilitation.



Mr. Stripling is committed to the service of others. He is a member of the Accessible Transportation Sub-Committee of the American Public Transit Administration (APTA). Additionally, he is active in his Atlanta community. He is a graduate of the Fulton County Citizens University and the City of Atlanta's Community Leadership Institute. He currently serves as the president of the historic Collier Heights Community Association, is a member of the Zoning and Land Use Subcommittee, and is Sargent-at-Arms in the City of Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Unit-I.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Georgia State University, he earned his Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. He is an ordained Deacon and serves as the ministry leader of his church's Elder Care Ministry. He is pleased to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Equity & Justice



Nadia Velasquez, LCSW, is a Mental Health Counselor at Family Eldercare in Austin, Texas. Additionally, as a therapist, she works with The Austin Center for Grief and Loss also in Austin, Texas.

Ms. Velasquez’s passion is to advocate for accessible mental health services specifically for Older Adults. Her focus is Older Adults who have experienced depression, anxiety, social isolation, difficulties adjusting to aging, chronic illness, trauma, grief and loss.

As an active participant in the Family Eldercare DEI Council, she collaborates with a team to improve the experiences of BIPOC clients served in the community. Ms. Velasquez has also participated in the Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education, (GRACE),

program receiving specialized training and education to better assess and provide for the needs of Older Adults.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Velasquez went on and received her Master of Science in Social Work with a portfolio in Aging and Health at the same institution. She has earned the distinction of being a Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education (GRACE) Scholar. She is thrilled to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging’s ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Health & Well-Being

Christina Wu is the Research and Policy Director of the Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) and the affiliated National MLTSS Health Plan Association, in Washington, DC. Ms. Wu develops and implements the two organizations' research and policy agendas to advance high-quality systems of integrated, person-centered long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults and people with disabilities. She is passionate about improving the integration of medical and non-medical services to better support the health and well-being of older adults in the U.S.

Previously, as a consultant at the Lewin Group, Ms. Wu supported aging and disability policy research and technical assistance initiatives for the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and several state Medicaid agencies. In Massachusetts, she worked at both the State and within a health plan to improve care coordination and delivery for Medicaid beneficiaries with complex health and social needs.

Ms. Wu has also completed a Fulbright fellowship researching dementia care in China. She holds a Master of Public Health in Health Policy from Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Societies from the University of Pennsylvania. She is delighted to be a second cohort Fellow of American Society on Aging's ASA RISE.

Priority Area of Interest: Economic Security

