



## CECD Society Continuing Education and Accreditation Program

### Overview

Continuing education is an essential component of professional development and fits within the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care's mandate to promote educational events. Beginning in 2011, the Society will develop a continuing education program that aims to assist members and non-members in the acquisition of professional knowledge and skills through accredited Learning Units (LUs). The Board of Directors of the CECD Society will attach LUs to its learning activities that meet the following criteria.

### Activities must:

1. Be a minimum of 30 minutes in length,
2. Have an educational purpose with learning objectives
3. Be structured and designed as a learning activity
4. Be relevant in dementia care from a psychosocial and/or biomedical perspective
5. Be relevant in the use of the visual and performing arts in dementia care
6. Be relevant to creative expression and aging
7. Be planned and presented by instructors who are qualified as academics or practitioners in relevant fields

The Society's continuing education program is not mandatory or binding. It aims merely to provide evidence of an individual's participation in an educational activity provided at the conferences and workshops we conduct. Each participant can submit the documentation provided by the Society to his or her organization or institution for consideration.

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### Introduction

The CECD Society's continuing education program was introduced on November 13, 2010. This followed the adoption of a motion put forward by Dalia Gottlieb-Tanaka, Chair of the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care. Earlier efforts to obtain accreditation through acknowledged accreditation agencies and organizations have proven to be expensive and time consuming and were dropped, even though the CECD Society's application met preliminary approval.

In order to gain wider recognition of CECD activities, the Society's Board of Directors has decided to provide participants with certificates that record their attendance in Learning Units, giving participants the opportunity to earn relevant professional development points at CECD learning events. Participants could then present these certificates to their organizations or institutions for recognition of the Learning Units.

The Board of Directors has always strived for excellence in dementia programming and service provision and in attracting qualified presenters who come from internationally-recognized academic institutions and professional practice. Our rigorous selection process is applied to each event to meet its educational objectives.

## **Criteria for Educational Activity to be Submitted by Presenters**

The CECD Society will continue to require each presenter to submit the following:

1. An outline of 250 words of the proposed educational activity
2. An explanation of the learning aims, objectives, outcomes and assessments when relevant to the activity
3. Details of the presenters' qualifications and experience

## **Proof of Registration and Participation in an Educational Activity**

### ***Personal Information***

Participants will be able to obtain a certificate as **proof of registration** through the Society's secured on-line registration system. The system is designed to protect and record personal contact information and payment.

Participants will fill out a sign-in sheet as **proof of attendance**. In their registration package, participants will receive a CECD certificate of participation to be signed by a Board member at the end of each activity. The certificate will record the participant's name, the title of the activity, the date and length of the activity and the suggested Learning Units assigned.

### **Learning Units**

Learning Units (LUs) and Continuing Education credits are measured, recorded and identified as follows:

- One LU of a CECD-approved learning activity equals one credit point and is typically half an hour in length
- A three-hour session would typically earn six LUs, but credit from some organizations may vary

### **Educational Activities and Formats**

To be eligible for credit by the CECD Society, learning activities must be planned and educational. They must be relevant to each participant's practice in the field of aging, in dementia-specific care, in research in these fields or in the enhancement of facilities' management and/or design.

Learning activities may take place in a typical classroom setting or at conferences, workshops and seminars. The format may provide hands-on demonstrations in the visual and performing arts. This may include painting classes, drama activity or the exploration of dance and body movement.

### **Qualifying Topics for Learning Units**

Each year, the CECD Board of Directors will select relevant topics for its events. Topics that qualify may cover a vast range of issues, including:

- Visual and performing arts programming for an aging population
- Visual and performing arts programming for dementia care
- Evaluation of visual and performing arts programming in aging and in dementia care
- New psychosocial and spiritual interventions
- Innovative therapeutic environment design, including consideration for accessibility and safety measures
- Working within a legal and ethical framework: Advocating for the human rights of people with dementia
- New approaches for care facility management
- Issues relevant for caregivers as they interact with clients

- Research in the field of aging and in dementia-specific care that focus on developing creative expression programs and program evaluation
- Dementia-specific product development
- Education in fields of aging and dementia care

### **Benefits of Providing Continuing Education Learning Units**

The benefits of establishing Learning Units are three-fold:

1. To streamline a process that enables participants to obtain recognition for their professional development and participation in CECD education
2. To attract new and different participants to CECD functions
3. To attract participants who seek professional development opportunities with accredited Learning Units that have the potential to be recognized by related organizations

### **Are there any Learning Unit Requirements?**

At present, the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care is only suggesting the number of Learning Units assigned to an educational activity. It is up to the individuals participating in the Society's educational events to decide how to use the Learning Units for their benefit.

### **Future Plans Regarding the Society's Continuing Educations Program**

The Society for the Arts in Dementia Care will continue to strive for excellence in promoting best practices in aging and in dementia-specific care. The CECD will continue to develop an innovative Continuing Education program to reach out to others for mutual benefit.

<http://www.cecd-society.org>