

Walter O. Coffey | MPA, MA, MCM, CAE, Eden Educator  
Gerontologist and Thought Leader

Currently, Walter is the President & CEO of LeadingAge Georgia, the Georgia Institute on Aging (the education arm of LeadingAge) and the Center for Positive Aging (the consumer arm of LeadingAge). Walter is one of 5% of association CEOs who is a Certified Association Executive (via the American Society of Association Executives). He is also the Managing Partner of WD International, LLC and a part time instructor with the Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Walter has worked with older adults for over 30 years. Along with developing and leading professional development and educational programs, he has presented workshops at state, national and international conferences. He is passionate about facilitating the development of individuals and organizations, especially relating to quality, person-centered care and services. He became a certified Eden Educator in order to engage and certify professionals and elders in the culture change movement. In 2008, he co-founded the state culture change coalition for Georgia.

Walter is an advocate for individuals living with dementia. He serves as an officer on the Board of Directors of the national Dementia Action Alliance. As a gerontologist and thought leader, Walter has provided leadership to various boards, task forces, committees, regulators, legislators, and study groups. He is passionate about the professional development of individuals and advancement of organizations to better meet their missions. Walter has led the development of programs, regulations and legislation that positively affect the lives of older Americans. He is known as a connector and collaborator who supports the wellbeing of both elders and those working with them.

During his career, he served as the Administrator at Northminster Presbyterian Homes, Director of Assisted Living at Presbyterian Village, Director of Adult Day Services at the Alzheimer's Association/Georgia Chapter, Assistant Director of the Georgia Council on Aging, Administrative Director of Georgia Gerontology Society, and in ministerial positions with various congregations.

Significant national/international speaking engagements include The Global Aging Network Conference (formerly IAHSAs), The Eden Alternative International Conference, Dementia Action Alliance North American Conference, Assistive Technology Industry Association, LeadingAge, Pioneer Network, Meals on Wheels Association of America, National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, National Association of Regulatory Administrators, National Alzheimer's Association, American Society on Aging, and American Association of Service Coordinators.

Professional education includes: Master of Public Administration, Gerontology/Non-Profit Management, Georgia State University; Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, Georgia State University; Master of Music Education/Church Music, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; Master of Arts, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

Professional certifications include: Certified Association Executive, American Society of Association Executive; Eden Educator, The Eden Alternative International; Certified Trainer in Total Quality Management for Healthcare, American Healthcare Association; Certified Retirement Housing Professional, University of North Texas.