

Hello From SAGE

Seniors Achieving Greater Education, SAGE, was started in 1998 as a program of Conferences and Special Programs of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The director and her staff began by recruiting community members to put together the basic mission and practices for this new organization and we began to offer it to the community of seniors in the central part of Aroostook County. We are still a program of Conferences and Special Programs, and this relationship is very important to us and to the university.

Our classes are taught by community members, staff of other organizations working with seniors, and the faculty, students, and staff of UMPI and we have community partners to share resources. We started a Mahjongg Club at the Sargent Family Community Center in the Senior Room where anyone can stop in and play Mahjongg. They, in turn, provide inexpensive transportation for our excursion portion of the curriculum.

COVID forced us to move to Zoom but, after a while, it became clear that Zoom could be used very effectively. We now offer hybrid and Zoom classes as well as in-person classes when appropriate. During the winter months, our classes are all on Zoom. This allows us to encourage seniors and instructors from across the State of Maine and around the nation to join us, if they wish.



Figure 1- Mahjongg Club at Sargent Family Community Center



Figure 2- SAGE members and guests go out to eat once a month



Figure 3- Francis Malcolm Science Ctr, a great program partner