



21st ANNUAL Michael A. Creedon Memorial LECTURE on AGING

Thursday, April 30, 2026

**Aging Faster Without a Home - Insights from
the Frontlines**

Guest speakers

Nathan Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Central Arizona Shelter Services

Johanna Jorgenson, LMSW
Program Manager, The Haven
Central Arizona Shelter Services

Brittnie Stanton
Chief Program Officer
Central Arizona Shelter Services

Mesa, Arizona, campus
5850 Building, Saguaro A
Noon MST

Kirkville, Missouri, campus
via Zoom
2:00 p.m. CDT

Zoom link: atsu.edu/aging-lecture-zoom

Password: ATSU1892

For more information,
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2026 LECTURE ON AGING SPEAKERS

Nathan Smith



Nathan Smith is a dedicated nonprofit executive leading and expanding programs in homelessness and behavioral health. As CEO of Central Arizona Shelter Services, Smith brings a wealth of experience in strategic leadership, program development, and fiscal management. He previously served as Phoenix Rescue Mission's chief program officer for 10 years. His career highlights include significantly growing homeless outreach initiatives, scaling residential behavioral health programs, and establishing private and public partnerships.

At home, he's always trying to squeeze in basketball and Muay Thai (Thai boxing) while chasing after his four kids. He and his wife enjoy taking the kids on family vacations despite the feeling of managing the same chaos in a different location. Smith's commitment to both his work and personal life fuels his mission to create lasting change for people experiencing homelessness.

Brittnie Stanton



Brittnie Stanton has spent more than 12 years serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness, behavioral health challenges, and housing instability while also leading large-scale programs delivering lasting impact. Her experience spans outpatient behavioral health, transitional housing for women and children, permanent supportive housing for survivors of sex trafficking, and emergency shelter operations. Stanton has overseen multimillion-dollar program budgets, supervised multidisciplinary teams, and

directed the design and implementation of innovative housing and case management models.

A graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor of science in psychology and criminology, Stanton is passionate about creating trauma-informed, culturally responsive programs rooted in Housing First and harm reduction principles, ensuring all Arizonans have access to safe, equitable, and dignified services.

Johanna Jorgenson



With more than nine years of experience in social services and seven years dedicated to addressing homelessness, Johanna Jorgenson, LMSW, is a passionate advocate for systems changes for vulnerable populations. In 2024, Jorgenson earned her master of social work and became a licensed master social worker (LMSW) in 2025, further solidifying her commitment to impactful, ethical practices.

Jorgenson currently serves as program manager at The Haven, the first emergency homeless shelter designed for the aging population. She leads with a trauma-informed, person-centered approach and has worked extensively with diverse populations, including older adults, veterans, and at-risk youth. Her current focus is on creating safe, dignified spaces and developing sustainable pathways out of homelessness for older adults.

Jorgenson brings a strong foundation in systems thinking, program development, and deep empathy to every role she takes on, continuously striving to improve the systems of care and support for those most in need.

Michael A. Creedon, DSW, MSW

June 5, 1941-Sept. 5, 2017



Dr. Creedon served on the faculty of A.T. Still University's (ATSU) School of Health Management, 2001-11, as professor of geriatric health management and chair of the Master's in Geriatric Health Management program. He led the ATSU Board Task Force on Aging in 2002-03 and served as coordinator of ATSU's Aging Studies Project from 2003-15.

Dr. Creedon earned a doctorate in social work, and his career as a gerontologist took him all over the world. Through his tenure as a professor and lecturer, he touched many peoples' lives, helping them transition to a successful and happy retirement, as well as helping educate those working in service for older adults.

He worked with financial institutions and governments to prevent financial abuse of the elderly. The topics he tackled in his career were wide and varied, and his work brought him great fulfillment and joy.

Excerpt from Dr. Creedon's obituary in the Arlington Catholic Herald.

Center for Resilience in Aging

A.T. Still University's (ATSU) Center for Resilience in Aging seeks to enable individuals to age successfully by enhancing their physical and psychological resilience through evidence-based education interventions. The Center's programs help individuals be less vulnerable and more resilient when confronting issues such as chronic disease, falls, and mental decline.

Teaching, service, and research are central activities of the Center, contributing to the University's commitment in the areas of whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, and promotion of ATSU's core professional attributes.

For more information,
call 480.219.6174.

Elton Bordenave, PhD, director
Mesa, Arizona, campus

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