

NEWS RELEASE



Touchmark at Coffee Creek

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wellness expert to present at UCO during Careers in Aging Week

EDMOND, Okla. — Nationally acclaimed wellness expert Marge Coalman, EdD, will be the keynote speaker April 6 at University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) as part of *Careers in Aging Week*, sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America.

Coalman, vice president of wellness and programs at Touchmark, will present “Imagine the Possibilities.” The focus will cover life enrichment in retirement living, brain building tips and exercises and Touchmark’s nationally recognized Fall Reduction and Awareness Program, which was one of 10 national programs identified in 2007 by the Falls-Free Coalition for creative programs and practices.

This lunch-and-learn presentation with questions to follow is scheduled 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Will Rogers Room of the Nigh University Center on the UCO campus.

Coalman’s presentation will be followed by a panel discussion of former UCO students who will discuss careers in geriatrics. There is no charge to attend, and the event is open to the public.

Edmond Medical Center’s Autumn Life Center, UCO Gerontology Master’s Program and Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center are hosting the symposium.

Each year, UCO’s Douglas Reed, PhD, director for the Gerontology Master’s Program, brings in a specialist to present directly to students. Reed also asks a panel of former students to talk with current students about the many career opportunities working with elderly people. Reed has been head of UCO’s Gerontology Masters Program for 10 years.

Coalman also will be speaking to a UCO class the evening before about wellness intervention planning, implementation and evaluation.

A proponent of lifelong health and wellness, Coalman is responsible for developing and implementing programs that enrich people’s lives through individualized physical, intellectual, and spiritual activities. Additionally, she provides support and oversight for Touchmark’s assisted living and memory care programs as well as the company’s health and fitness clubs.

Prior to joining Touchmark in 2003, Coalman served as national program director for Regent Assisted Living, Inc. where she developed programs for 32 assisted living communities in nine

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states. She also had her own consulting business for senior living providers and agencies. She worked for 15 years at the Multnomah Athletic Club, where she created a wellness program for members 2 to 90 with special needs, and she worked in special education for 15 years, first with the Columbia Education Service District and later at Portland State University. Coalman received her doctorate in Education from Oregon Health Sciences University. She also holds a master's degree in Education from Portland State University and a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Washington.

Careers in Aging Week is an annual event designed to bring greater awareness and visibility to the career opportunities in aging and aging research. Universities and colleges across the world participate by sponsoring events at their schools or in their communities.

Touchmark was established in 1980 and is a leader in planning, building and operating communities for those 55-plus years. Located in eight states and a Canadian province, Touchmark's 11 communities provide a broad range of homes and lifestyle options. Touchmark health and fitness clubs are open to the public and serve people ages 40-plus.

In Oklahoma, Touchmark is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. This spring, Touchmark at Coffee Creek will open new memory care residences and additional homes for people desiring independent living or assisted living services. For more information, contact Touchmark at (405) 340-1975 or visit TouchmarkEdmond.com.

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