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Interests and experiences of older workers: Evidence from multiple nationally representative studies

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We are living at a time where there are nearly equal numbers of people in every age group in the U.S., from birth to the early 70s. At the same time, increasing numbers of people past midlife need or desire to work well into traditional retirement age. This presentation will review findings from several studies (e.g., Encore Career Survey, Cogeneration Survey, Current Population Survey, Health and Retirement Study) on the interests and experiences of older workers—in both paid and volunteer roles—while making the case for increasing pathways to continued economic and community engagement opportunities throughout the lifespan.

About the speaker:

Cal J. Halvorsen, PhD, MSW, is an assistant professor at the Boston College School of Social Work, a project lead and investigator at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Work, Health, and Well-being, an affiliate of the Center on Aging & Work at Boston College, and a Senior Research Fellow at CoGenerate. His work examines aging societies, intergenerational initiatives, and the need and desire for people past midlife to work past traditional retirement age, with particular emphasis on self-employment, encore careers, low-income workers, and volunteering. His research and training have been funded by both public and private sources, including the U.S. Social Security Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Institutes of Health, AARP, and the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society.

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