

# Thomas J. Fairchild, Ph.D.



Dr. Thomas J. Fairchild is the Associate Vice-President for Institutional Planning and Performance Improvement and Director of Special Projects on Aging at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. He had previously held a faculty position at the Center for Studies in Aging at the University of North Texas.

Dr. Fairchild received his B.S. in management and his M.A. in sociology from Wayne State University. He completed his Ph.D. in sociology with a specialization in aging from Wayne State University.

He has been involved for more than 27 years in the field of gerontology, with an emphasis on retirement housing, long-term care, and health services management. Dr. Fairchild has conducted research, published articles, and made numerous presentations in retirement housing and management issues that impact the senior housing industry and long-term care. His primary research interest deals with Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and job performance and turnover issues in retirement housing and long-term Care facilities. His research has been sponsored by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the administration on Aging, and various other foundations and organizations. He has also developed and implemented training programs for staff in retirement communities, long-term care facilities and retail sales associates. He has worked with a variety of national and international developers and sponsors in retirement housing and long-term care. He has membership in and serves on the boards of numerous associations including ALFA, ASHA, AGHE, AAHSA, TAHSA and TALA.

As Associate Vice President for Institutional Planning and Performance Improvement he is responsible for establishing and maintaining an effective strategic planning process and developing performance improvement initiatives across the institution. In his role as Director of Special Projects on Aging he is currently responsible for public-private collaboration between UNT Health Science Center and various senior housing and long term care providers. The collaboration involves the development of a research and education program focusing on Alzheimer's disease that will be implemented in all Heritage sites in the United States.

In 2004 Dr. Fairchild was named a fellow in the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. Dr. Fairchild also has received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.