

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Marihart earns doctorate in gerontology

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division Director Cindy Marihart has earned a doctorate degree in gerontology, the study of aging, from North Dakota State University in Fargo.

She is one of only a few state Agency on Aging officials in the country to earn this distinction. Marihart's dissertation is titled, "Older Adults Fighting Obesity with Bariatric Surgery: Benefits, Side Effects and Outcomes."

Marihart has worked in the social services field for over 25 years and assumed the leadership of North Dakota's Aging Services Division in September 2014. The division provides services and funds programs to improve quality of life and to help older adults and adults with physical disabilities live independently in their homes and communities.

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