Promoting connection, curiosity, exploration, discovery, and discussion through learning and social engagement in non-credit classes, lectures, field trips, and events designed for adults 50+.
The OLLI Annual Report for fiscal year 2021 provides an overview of the activities, accomplishments, challenges, and assets of the program between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the OLLI Board of Directors voted to continue to offer classes and events online via Zoom only through March 2021. The OLLI office at the Mountaineer Mall was open by appointment only until September 2020. Although the availability of COVID-19 vaccines made the OLLI Board of Directors more confident in the organization’s ability to re-open to in-person programs in 2021-22, during spring 2021, we decided to continue most programming online until fall 2021. We committed to continuing online alongside in-person learning for future terms and began planning for hybrid learning opportunities.

Although we experienced a significant drop in the number of members, OLLI also welcomed 105 new members to the program. Some were friends and family of current members or WVU retirees who lived outside the region. We also welcomed back members who had let their membership lapse because they were unable to come to OLLI’s physical classrooms.

The online platform also allowed OLLI to expand our programming. We brought our members from the Morgantown program and Kanawha Valley program together to share classes taught by instructors in both communities. We also hosted classes and events taught by volunteers from California, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Texas. And we formed new partnerships with the WVU Committee for Retired Faculty, the Community Coalition for Social Justice, and Main Street Morgantown to offer virtual programs free and open to the public.

During the spring term, OLLI began holding limited in-person classes, including a trip to the JW Ruby Research Farm to learn about horses. Nature hikes in Morgantown and Charleston were added to the schedule and we partnered with the City of Morgantown to offer free t’ai chi classes at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park in Morgantown. More than 100 people attended at least one session of t’ai chi through the end of September 2021.

In March 2020, OLLI was granted a third Osher Capacity Building grant to fund a part-time staff person in the Kanawha Valley for 2020-21. With the onset of COVID-19 and transition to online-only learning, we received approval from the Osher Foundation to delay the start of the grant period to the following spring. In March 2021, OLLI hired Susan Martino as the program assistant for our Kanawha Valley program.

Despite a projected loss of over $36,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year, OLLI lost only $6,000, thanks in part to the generosity of current and previous members and friends. While earned income from membership dues and enrollment fees dropped, individual donations increased by nearly $5,000.

How OLLI will look in the future is still uncertain but we remain committed to providing opportunities for our members to continue learning and, equally important, to connect with others in educational and social environments.
Engaging classes and enthusiastic volunteering lay the foundation for a successful OLLI, offering a variety of educational and social opportunities for its membership. The faculty and presenters of OLLI at WVU deliver both by volunteering to teach an OLLI course. Thank you to our 2020-21 faculty and presenters for sharing your knowledge, passion, and time with the members of OLLI at WVU.

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Diane Cale, Program Assistant
Susan Martino, Program Assistant
Membership, Volunteers, & Activity

516 Members 37%

Over 1,000 non-members served

* includes non-members on the Friday ebulletin list who receive on a weekly basis general information of interest to older adults, and about events at OLLI, WVU, and around the community.

6,000+ registrations

97 volunteers, including 63 instructors

Classes, lectures, workshops, 187, 87%

Community events, 12, 5%

Interest groups, 2, 1%

Special member events, 15, 7%

OLLI Membership

OLLI Programming

West Virginia University
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
Income & Expenses

Income
Grants: $7,272
Individual Donations: $36,573
Earned Income: $44,085
Endowments: $60,058
WVU Support: $70,945

Donations
$36,573 from 163 OLLI members and 61 friends

Expenses
Programming: $416.17
Administrative Costs: $37,934.48
Facilities: $17,993.43
Personnel & Fringe Benefits: $168,599.14
Thank You to our 2020-21 Donors

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- Schoenbaum Family Education Center
- The Village at Heritage Point
- West Virginia University, President’s Office
- WVU Foundation
- WVU School of Public Health (SPH)