

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman

To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the September meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

Montana State University - Bozeman

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Montana State University proposes to establish the “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University.” The mission of the Institute states: “As part of Montana’s land-grant university, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University provides intellectually stimulating programs for adults 50+ years of age that foster lifelong learning and community engagement.” MSU has served this population for over 15 years through a non-credit program called Wonderlust. Based on the quality reputation of this program, MSU was invited by the Bernard Osher Foundation to submit a proposal to become the 124th Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in the United States. This proposal was accepted by the Osher Foundation in July 2019, with initial funding provided to strengthen the program. The “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University” name is an Osher Foundation requirement. The successful MSU Wonderlust program will become the “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University.”

The Institute will be supported through membership dues, class registration fees, and private contributions including the Osher Foundation grant. MSU anticipates an endowment from the Osher Foundation at the beginning of 2021 following successful completion of the metrics outlined in the grant proposal.

The Bernard Osher Foundation established an Osher Lifelong Institute at the University of Montana (MOLLI) which was approved by the BOR in 2007. UM is supportive of a second OLLI at Montana State University and provided a letter of support to the Bernard Osher Foundation for the MSU proposal.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

****Note: In accordance with BOR Policy 1004.1 “Naming of Buildings”, MSU provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed name of this academic unit. Summary of comments received are included in the Level II Memorandum.**