

Montana University System
INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University

Campus, School/Department: Montana State University

Expected Submission Date: _____

Contact Name/Info: Kim Obbink

To increase communication, collaboration, and problem-solving opportunities throughout the MUS in the program/center/institute development process, please complete this form not more than 18 months in advance of the anticipated date of submission of the proposed program/center/institute to the Board of Regents for approval. The completed form should not be more than 2-3 pages. For more information regarding the Intent to Plan process, please visit <http://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.asp>.

1) Provide a description of the program/center/institute.

The purpose of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University is to create a community of lifelong learners affiliated with Montana State University and provide non-credit programs in a variety of formats to meet the lifelong learning needs of individuals 50 years of age and older. MSU has served this population over the last 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. This proposal has now been accepted by the Osher Foundation, with initial funding provided to establish the program. The "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University" name is an Osher Foundation requirement for future funding. The current Wonderlust program will become the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University. It will be administered through MSU Academic Technology and Outreach, an academic unit reporting up through the MSU Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

OLLI at MSU will offer non-credit academic courses, workshops, seminars, travel programs and other learning and social opportunities facilitated by MSU faculty, staff and students, as well as the significant community expertise in the Gallatin Valley.

2) Describe the need for the program/center/institute. Specifically, how the program/center/institute meets current student and workforce demands. (Please cite sources).

Montana State University and the community of Bozeman have a unique opportunity to significantly advance the current MSU Wonderlust lifelong learning program by establishing an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at MSU. Bozeman seems to attract a certain kind of resident – people who seek adventure and welcome learning. MSU students certainly play a large role in that population, however, there is a growing proportion of the population that is no longer college-aged, but still eager to learn.

As a self-supported membership program, MSU Wonderlust has over 570 annual members and growing, and most courses fill to capacity. Based on demographics alone, there is reason to believe that this demand will only continue to grow. According to the Prospera 2019 Economic Profile, "Gallatin County projects a 585% growth in the 65 and older age cohort representing a large population shift in the next 30 years"

The Osher Foundation funding support, as well as the resources from the national network of Osher Institutes, will enable the OLLI program to sustainably expand to meet the needs of this rapidly growing community and retiree audience.

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3) Describe how the program/center/institute fits with the institutional mission, strategic plan, and existing institutional program array.

The MSU Strategic Plan "Choosing Promise" defines the University mission: "As the state's land-grant university, Montana State integrates education, creation of knowledge and art and service to communities." The plan identifies 3 areas of "intentional focus." The 3rd intentional focus area is "Expanding Engagement: Expand Mutually Beneficial and Responsive Engagement for the Advancement of Montana."

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University is an exemplary program that addresses this intentional focus. Given this emphasis, we are well positioned to transition MSU Wonderlust to the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning at Montana State University as a high-profile program of Montana State University. This new institute recognizes the spirit of the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement by including diverse representation from our community constituents in defining the goals, planning, and operations, of the Institute.

4) Describe how the program/center/institute overlaps, complements, or duplicates existing efforts in the MUS. Describe efforts that will be made to collaborate with similar programs at other institutions. If no efforts will be made, please explain why.

The Montana Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (MOLLI) at the University of Montana was established in 2008. MOLLI has been very supportive of this request and encouraged the Osher Foundation to fund a second institute in Montana. Given Montana's aging demographics and dispersed population, having two OLLI programs in the state will allow us to work together to bring lifelong learning programs for people over 50 years of age to parts of the state beyond Missoula and Gallatin Valley. In addition, the expertise from both institutions will enable us to establish a wider range of course topics for members of both programs. The directors of the Missoula and Bozeman Lifelong Learning organizations have engaged in planning and discussions about how to work together to strengthen both programs and better serve the people of Montana.

Signature/Date

College/School Dean:

Chief Academic Officer: *R. L. McKenna* 2-18-20

Chief Executive Officer: *Jeffrey* Feb 18 2020

Flagship Provost*: *R. L. McKenna* 2-18-20

Flagship President*: *Jeffrey* Feb 18, 2020

*Not applicable to the Community Colleges.

Date of Final Review:

When submitting the proposal to the BOR, include this signed form with the Level II request.