

Talking Points

- **Founded in 1993**
- **Membership Organization through Yavapai College**
- **OLLI is a peer-to-peer model**
- **1,000 + members each year**
- **Offer 5 six-week sessions, with 300+ classes and workshops**
- **Low cost**

OLLI's mission as a peer-directed organization within Yavapai College is to provide lifelong learning and social interaction opportunities. Talents, experience, and skills are shared in a relaxed environment to explore new interests, discover latent abilities, engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits, and contribute to a rapidly changing multicultural and multigenerational society.

OLLI was founded in 1993 by a group of people who wanted to see educational offerings that met the needs of retirees – shorter than the typical 15 week semesters, and without the time commitment of homework and tests. Yavapai College was supportive of the idea, and the Yavapai Learning Institute (YLI) (our original name) was created.

YLI/OLLI began with approximately 100 members, offering classes on Fridays on the Prescott Campus. A handful of those members are still involved today. It steadily grew, until a significant opportunity occurred in 2003, when the College and YLI partnered to apply for a grant from the Osher Foundation. We were honored to be selected and received \$100,000 a year over three years to expand our offerings to the Verde Valley, and grow our membership. We also changed our name to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. There are 122 OLLIs across the country, at least two in every state. Yavapai College's OLLI is one of only four community colleges in the country that host an OLLI, and we are one of the most successful OLLIs in the country. We were so successful that we were given a \$1 million dollar endowment in 2006, and a second million dollar endowment in 2008. With our sister programs in Sedona and Cottonwood, the Prescott OLLI is able to supplement its budget with interest from the endowment each year.

The Prescott OLLI averages about 1,000 members per year, and combined with Sedona and Cottonwood, Yavapai College had more than 2,000 members across the county.

Prescott OLLI offers more than 300 classes and workshops a year, along with social events, field trips, special interest groups, and one-time events during the summer and winter breaks.

Prescott OLLI offers two different types of membership, a Deluxe for \$165 that allows members to take up to 20 classes free each year, plus free workshops, and a Basic \$65 membership that includes free workshops, and each class is \$30. We also added a \$10 Try Me membership, for one six-week session, plus \$30 per learning group. Scholarships are also available. The fees are so low for OLLI because all the classes are offered by OLLI members who volunteers to facilitate. Prescott OLLI is a peer to peer program – members provide leadership, and volunteer throughout every aspect of our program. We have volunteers in committees who facilitate, provide technology support, plan social events, welcome new members, plan for the future, monitor our income and spending, reach out to potential members, recruit new facilitators, partner with other organizations, and provide the leadership to set our policies and goals for the future.