



All About OLLI at Bradley University

About OLLI

OLLI is an acronym for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, an organization at Bradley University whose members want to keep learning and stay active as they reach and enjoy retirement. Participants enjoy a diverse collection of year-round programs including non-credit classes, educational travel, and study groups. Only two requirements apply to OLLI members: they must be at least 50 years old and have a love of learning.

Participants

Designed for Peoria-area residents age 50 and beyond, OLLI at Bradley currently supports nearly 1,100 members. The majority of members reside in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties, but some people travel from Chicago, Pontiac, and Lincoln to attend programs.

Benefits of Participating

Involvement with OLLI gives its members and volunteers exposure to an important demographic of people in their 50s and beyond. As lifelong learners, OLLI members understand that learning and social interaction contribute to a rich and gratifying life. OLLI offers this interaction through a variety of learning experiences in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Programs

- **Classes** meet at Bradley University three times each year. In January, classes are held for four consecutive days. In April and October, they meet on the first four Wednesdays. Participants choose the classes they wish to attend, so every seat is filled with an interested “student.” Classes are taught by volunteer instructors who are knowledgeable, engaging, and have an interest in their subjects.
- **Learning Trips** are door-to-door travel experiences with a behind-the-scenes, educational focus. While most learning trips visit local businesses and regional attractions, some excursions involve multi-state and international venues. On most

trips, experts (business owners, history buffs, art lovers and more) are on hand to explain the significance and to provide insight exclusive to OLLI members.

- **Study Groups** give members the opportunity to dig into a subject of special interest while also contributing to the group's understanding of the topic. Volunteer facilitators lead Study Groups, which generally convene for two hours and continue for up to eight sessions held throughout the community in various locations.

Supporters

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is hosted by **Bradley University**, which recognizes OLLI as a standard for excellence in lifelong learning. Bradley supports OLLI through the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Development, which assists OLLI with leadership, staff, meeting space, and oversight.

OLLI at Bradley University is an endowed program of **The Bernard Osher Foundation** in San Francisco. Founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a patron of education and the arts, the Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through its support for higher education and the arts. Through two separate \$1 million gifts from the Foundation, OLLI at Bradley is recognized as an Osher program of distinction.

OLLI is a **member-driven organization** that is guided by dedicated individuals who are passionate about their vision of OLLI at Bradley University. OLLI volunteers serve the organization through its many committees where program ideas originate. This grassroots approach makes everyone a stakeholder in the process and the results.

For More Information:

Visit our website for detailed information about OLLI programs: bradley.edu/olli

Contact the OLLI Director, Michelle Riggio, at mriggio@bradley.edu or (309) 677-3900