

Willamette University Institute for Continued Learning

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

INTRODUCTION:

Established in 1992, **Willamette University Institute for Continued Learning (ICL)** serves persons over the age of 50 who wish to explore opportunities for continued learning in an academic environment.

Willamette University ICL is a self-directed academic program, headed by the Executive Director. Our director holds and directs board meetings as well as oversees the various committees. We are looking forward to the new school year with our new Executive Director, Joan Robinson. Classes are usually held on Willamette's campus, however this year and last year, due to the Coronavirus, we met on Zoom for our classes.

CURRICULUM SERVICES

GOALS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER 2020 AND SPRING SEMESTER 2021

To provide a well-balanced educational program in the Arts and Sciences, using the Zoom platform, for the delivery of presentations to ICL members.

To provide a balanced program with professors from Willamette University, outside speakers, and members of ICL.

To provide consistent academic quality and value throughout the semesters.

RESULTS

Fall Semester 2020 contained the following subjects: Supreme Court Decisions, Economics, Architecture, Civil War History, Visual Arts, and United States and International Current Events. Two classes were held for Zoom instruction.

Spring Semester 2021 contained program subjects in the following: History, Earth and Space Science, Visual and Performing Arts, Language and Literature, Anthropology, Environmental Law, Health and Nutrition, Current Events.

EVALUATION

To evaluate the quality and value of our program to our ICL members we used the criteria of attendance and the Class Survey taken at the end of the Spring Semester. Attendance averaged between 70 (47%) and 80 (54%) members attending each session. Total membership at this time was 148 members. One hundred-eighteen (118) of our members responded to the Survey. Fifty-eight percent (58%) responded that the curriculum was well-balanced. Forty-two percent (42%) requested that we consider more Outside and Willamette presenters. The text portion of the survey responses asked for an increase in natural and applied science.

Our future goals will reflect these results and incorporate these findings into our continued goals stated above.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

ICL has come through this first year of Covid restrictions financially sound. In the Fall, the Board decided to switch to Zoom classes and use the Rasmussen donation account to bridge the gap back to in-person classes. No tuition was charged. The Board was unsure how well the Zoom format would work.

Thanks to much volunteer time and the ingenuity of the Curriculum Committee, we have had expenses of less than \$2800. Most of that amount was for a full Tuesday morning schedule of classes and the remainder for mailing supplies. The mailings enabled us to get a newsletter out to all participants including those without computers.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services (TS) co-directors for ICL responded early to the COVID pandemic of 2020 by training and supporting members to use the Zoom platform. As a result, TS provided two full semesters of weekly ICL Zoom sessions in accordance with its mission and goals.

In addition, TS provided training and support services for special ICL programs, such as the Writer's Group and the Play Reading Group, so that they were able to practice on their own and present a program to the membership.

To provide continued connection throughout COVID, TS provided weekly virtual Coffee Hours and Happy Hours for all members. Additionally, TS offered a virtual Wine Group once each month.

The TS co-directors initiated a weekly 3-page newsletter, the ICL Learning Digest – Senioritis. This began the first week after we were not allowed on campus due to COVID-19 in March of 2020 and has continued weekly to date (with one week off at Christmas 2020).

The TS co-directors were available for additional technical support via Zoom and in person to troubleshoot problems and to teach software programs like PowerPoint and KeyNote.

The TS co-directors worked with the Curriculum co-directors both in planning and working with presenters.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Information Services continues to provide both to ICL members: information and services. The pandemic that came to Oregon in March of 2020 created new challenges. ICL had a very successful academic year of excellent presentations.

Information Services, along with Technical Services, provided communication, education, connectivity, social events, and community in the form of email, weekly newsletters, Zoom classes, Zoom meetings, and Zoom social gatherings.

ICL greatly appreciates the technical support made available by Willamette University, in particular: Webpage hosting, email services, and Zoom license. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

No new members were added in the year of 2020-2021 due to uncertainty surrounding COVID and using Zoom for our presentations. Neither were dues collected for the year. The Membership Directory was supplied in printed form to those members without computers. It was available to everyone on the ICL website in electronic (PDF) format.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Activities during 2020-2021 were highlighted by 3 themed Coffee & Conversations: Thankful Memories on November 12th, Fresh Start for 2021 on January 14th, and Stepping Out on April 22nd. Get well cards were sent to 7 members on the occasion of heart attacks, cancer, falls, broken bones, and seriously ill family members. Cards of condolence were sent to 3 families of deceased members, with follow up regarding the favored organization to receive an ICL memorial contribution. In addition, there has been ongoing planning with family regarding a memorial service for ICL founding member Kathy Fletcher.