



WORKING TOGETHER: Lifelong Learning Institutes & the Elderhostel Institute Network

December, 2011

Dear Members,

It has been 23 years since the Elderhostel Institute Network first began working with lifelong learning institutes (LLIs) like yours, all across the country. Many new members have joined since then, so let's take a minute to review some background, and bring everyone up-to-date.

In 1962, the first learning in retirement program, the Institute for Retired Professionals (IRP) in New York City, opened its doors. From that beginning, word slowly spread about this new learning for older adults and over the next 25 years or so, about 50 programs were started. Then, in 1988 the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN) was established to help the growing lifelong learning movement start more programs and to provide resources to those already in existence. To date, we have helped more than 200 new programs get started.

EIN is a free, voluntary association of affiliated lifelong learning institutes, funded by Elderhostel Inc. Elderhostel is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities for older adults through their Road Scholar programming (www.roadscholar.org). EIN does not prescribe LLI fees or approve curriculum; those decisions are made independently by each program. Because LLIs are for local participants, all advertising and registration are also handled locally.

Early every month EIN posts a newsletter and several new columns on our web site – www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp. As a central resource and communications network, the material we post is taken from your program's course catalogs, newsletters, and other materials, and keeps all the LLIs up-to-date on what's happening in the world of lifelong learning. At the same time, we also provide resources for new courses, and other events. **So be sure EIN is on your LLI's mailing list.** We read everything we receive and love to highlight unique program offerings in the monthly newsletter. To add EIN to your LLI's mailing list, our address is: **Elderhostel Institute Network – 11 Avenue deLafayette – Boston, MA 02111.**

From time-to-time, EIN also offers its affiliated LLIs special opportunities. For instance, the Road Scholar Ambassador program, with 300 ambassadors across the country, can send a free speaker to your LLI to talk about Road Scholar and its vast array of educational travel programs. These programs can round out your curriculum, complementing existing courses and activities. Along with that, Road Scholar, having just secured the necessary government permissions to travel to Cuba, can offer LLIs some very attractive programs and pricing. For more information about Road Scholar, watch their new DVD at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5E8rnTiESI>

We encourage you to visit our web site – www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp to learn more. If you would like to keep up with the world of lifelong learning, we would be happy to add you to our email distribution list. We try to keep emails to a minimum, usually just one per month. Your email address, safe in our database, is never rented, sold or given away. **Please be sure though, to let us know if your email address changes.** If you have any questions or would like to join our email list, send an email to network@roadscholar.org.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that as of today, membership in EIN stands at an all time high with more than 400 LLIs throughout the United States, Canada and Jamaica. As a member of your LLI, you are part of a thriving lifelong learning movement that has spread throughout the United States and into almost every country around the world. It is truly global in scope.

So welcome to the world of lifelong learning where millions of people just like you are creating fulfilling lives for themselves thanks to the benefits and joys of continuing to learn, no matter what our age!

Thank you.

Nancy Merz Nordstrom, M.Ed.

Director, Elderhostel Institute Network