From: "David T. Flanagan" <president@USM.MAINE.EDU>
To: <A-LIST@LISTS.USM.MAINE.EDU>
Date: 8/14/2014 1:30 PM
Subject: National Resource Center moving to Northwestern University

Dear Colleagues:

Fourteen years ago the Bernard Osher Foundation provided a very generous gift in support of the University of Southern Maine’s Senior College. In recognition of that gift, the program was renamed the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), the very first of what has grown to be a network of 119 Osher Institutes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Today USM’s OLLI serves more than 1,700 lifelong learners over the age of 50, providing access to courses ranging from music and art to history and science.

In 2004, the Osher Foundation established the National Resource Center (NRC) at the University of Southern Maine to help coordinate the growing national network of Osher Institutes and to distribute information on the most effective educational programming for older learners. USM’s support and stewardship of the NRC has played a critical role in the growth of the OLLI network into a successful national program.

In response to the pending retirement of the NRC founding Executive Director and the now national scale of the network, the Osher Foundation has taken a strategic look at how to best meet the growing demand for services from the NRC. They have reached the difficult decision to move the NRC to Northwestern University, a centrally located, national institution.

Moving the NRC will impact two of our colleagues here at USM who were notified this afternoon of the decision. We will do all we can to assist these impacted staff members through their employment transition.

The relocation of the NRC involves network administrative functions and will have no direct impact on the services and programs we currently offer through USM to Maine’s lifelong learners. The Osher Foundation will continue to play a role in the success of USM’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and we remain grateful for the support the foundation has provided for other university priorities such as scholarships and the Osher Map Library.

It will continue to be my practice to inform you directly of news impacting the operations of our university. I appreciate your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

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