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University Center in Sioux Falls Joins Nationwide Initiative to Provide Lifelong Learning Opportunities for Mature Adults

SIoux FALLS, SD – FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007 - University Center announces the launch of its new Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), featuring courses and events designed for adults age 50 and up. OLLI's first Open House is scheduled for April 27, 2007 from 1:00 to 4:00 in the University Center Commons.

According to Lori Bonderson, Program Director, "OLLI will enable older students to study a wide range of academic subjects from qualified instructors in a format that is designed for them. Students will be able to pursue knowledge for the sheer joy of learning."

OLLI classes will be taught Fridays at the University Center and may include offerings from subjects such as science, health and medicine, art, literature, spirituality, music, history, languages, politics and current events. In addition, the program will offer social activities, study/travel opportunities and special events such as a speaker series and an adventure series.

"One of the summer highlights is a class taught by President Thomas Jefferson," said Ann McKay Thompson, Assistant Executive Dean and OLLI Project Director. Clay Jenkinson, a nationally prominent humanities scholar and commentator on the president is sponsored in part by a grant from the SD Humanities Council. "He will give a first-person interpretation and answer questions on the life and visions of this great American", she added.

"We believe that University Center needs to be woven into the very fabric of Sioux Falls and OLLI represents one more way for us to engage the community and provide lifelong learning opportunities to a new group of students," noted Mark Lee, Executive Dean.

Annual membership in OLLI is \$130 and this fee includes access to all courses, workshops, activities and events. Non-members will be able to attend courses for a fee. The first OLLI term is scheduled for June, and courses will be held every Friday in two hour blocks beginning June 8 and ending June 29. Thereafter, OLLI will offer 6 to 8 week courses in the fall and spring and 4 week courses in the summer and winter. Participants may enroll online at www.oliuc.org, or by requesting an enrollment form by e-mailing info@oliuc.org or by phone at 605-367-5226.

University Center's OLLI is made possible from a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, a San Francisco based organization that has funded a network of over 90 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at Universities across the country.

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