

What was your role with OLLI?

In 2010 I took on the role of Statewide Administrator for our 8 OLLI program sites across Vermont. This was in addition to my ongoing HR responsibilities in UVM's Continuing Education department. In 2014, I was appointed OLLI Director.

My main responsibilities included overseeing and developing UVM's OLLI programming that encompassed 9 statewide sites (including the UVM campus). I managed the program's budget, promotion, fundraising, outreach, and marketing; and developed strategic initiatives for increasing membership and enrollments. I also supervised the OLLI staff and facilitated volunteer committees.

How did OLLI at UVM change in your tenure?

We grew our Vermont OLLI community and membership twofold – increasing annual membership from 500 to over 1,000. We established an annual gift fund campaign and received donations and sponsorship dollars from OLLI members and local businesses.

In 2015 we secured the second \$1M endowment funding from the Bernard Osher Foundation which provides ongoing financial support to the overall OLLI program. During the pandemic, we pivoted to online program offerings which drew participation from UVM alumni across the country.

Online programs continue to be a regular part of the OLLI portfolio. And we automated many processes, including online registration capabilities and presenter/course proposal submissions.

What is your favorite memory from your time with OLLI?

Two favorite experiences come to mind as I recall my time with OLLI. During my first year as statewide administrator, I visited each of our sites and met with local OLLI volunteer committee members. I continued these trips across Vermont during my tenure as Director and always looked forward to catching up with our site leaders and visiting with program participants.

My second favorite memory is the OLLI travel program "Insider's Tour of Provence" in Fall 2011. This was my first trip to Europe, and I reveled in traveling with a group of OLLI members as we immersed ourselves in the local culture, food, and natural surroundings of this beautiful region in France.

What are you looking forward to with OLLI?

I am so grateful to the OLLI team that is in place to support and continue to grow the program, under the very capable and professional leadership of Krista Hamel, OLLI's new Director.

I look forward to continuing my involvement with OLLI as an active member by attending classes (I've already registered for several classes this Fall!), donating to the annual gift fund, and exploring future travel opportunities with OLLI.