

SIUE's Lifelong Learning Institute Achieves Success in Fall Pilot Program

by Kalli Collins

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EDWARDSVILLE – The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) in the Office of Online Services and Educational Outreach at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has further expanded its reach to area seniors through a pilot program with Meridian Village of Glen Carbon. The LLI hosts a speaker series during the fall and spring semesters,

which are usually facilitated by SIUE faculty members and community experts on a range of topics related to current events as well as everything from art to zoology.

The LLI, which has existed in various forms since the 1970s, has provided area seniors with an opportunity to engage with SIUE faculty and community experts in a friendly, welcoming environment. Community members may join the Institute for a minimal fee to have access to these talks, as well as other benefits. As the LLI evolved during the pandemic to include a hybrid option, it also presented the Institute with an opportunity to reach a broader audience through business memberships.

“With the growth in technological access and use during the pandemic, we found an opportunity to expand the communities we serve,” said Alicia Taylor, LLI program coordinator. “We are excited to launch a business membership pilot program that allows area senior residential communities to virtually join our talks each week.”

The pilot program launched this fall with Meridian Village who sought to add to its already robust program schedule to offer even more engagement opportunities for their residents.

“SIUE’s fall speaker series has been a great opportunity to bring diverse educational programming to our residents,” said Gianna Killingbeck-Cedeno, Meridian Village’s life enrichment coordinator. “If we cannot attend in person, we show the talks live in our Media Room, and if the residents miss the live presentation, we’re able to upload the recordings onto our app afterwards where they are available on-demand. The residents have plenty of opportunities to tune in and learn something new.”

If you are interested in learning more about business memberships for the LLI, please contact Alicia Taylor at alitayl@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3233.

[Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#) provides students with a high-quality education that powerfully transforms the lives of all individuals who seek something greater. A premier metropolitan university, SIUE is creating social and economic mobility for individuals while also powering the workforce of the future. Built on the foundation of a broad-based liberal education, and enhanced by hands-on research and real-world experiences, the academic preparation SIUE students receive equips them to thrive in the global marketplace and make our communities better places to live. Situated on 2,660 acres of beautiful woodland atop the bluffs overlooking the natural beauty of the Mississippi River’s rich bottomland and only a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of more than 12,500.