

Debra Herman became executive director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Florida State University eight years ago. At the time, OLLI was a small and relatively unknown program in our community. Because of Debra's vision, leadership, management and support, the program has doubled to over 1100 members and is now providing over 50 academic classes plus numerous activities and clubs each semester. OLLI has become a resource for residents of our entire aging community who love to learn, make new friends and expand their horizons.

Under Debra's direction, OLLI at FSU has become known as one of the premier organizations among the nation's 123 OLLIs and has upheld the high standards set by the Osher Foundation, thereby receiving more than \$2 million in endowed funds from the Foundation.

Under Debra's leadership OLLI at FSU has become a well-known and respected part of FSU and Tallahassee as well as a resource for the area's senior citizens. When drivers see "I ♥ OLLI" bumper stickers on cars on Tallahassee roads, they no longer wonder, "What's an OLLI?" They've heard about the organization and they admire it.

Debra earned a B.A. in Specific Learning Disabilities at the University of South Florida and an M.S. in Journalism at Florida A&M University. She is currently a MBA candidate at FSU.

Her professional positions over the past 20 years have mainly been in the non-profit service sector and helping professions, and clearly demonstrate her dedication to improving the lives of her clients and the organizations she has led.

She has taught in all levels of education through community college as well as being instrumental in the development of academic benchmarks for secondary education learning disabilities in the State of Florida. Debra was regional director of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida before her hire at FSU.

In addition to her leadership of OLLI, Debra is also a strong community contributor, including prior service on the Choose Tallahassee board. Throughout her life, she has provided service to a wide variety of community organizations. Most recently, she has focused her abilities on the Tallahassee-Killearn Kiwanis Club and Good Shepherd Catholic Church.