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## **Lifelong Learning**

### **Executive Summary**

Senior Consulting, LLC (SC), is committed to offering Lifelong Learning Centers and/or Programs within its senior living communities, and assisted others in development of centers/programs. In addition, SC's preferred operating partner/manager for continuum of care projects is AgeWell Living, who is affiliated with Masterpiece Senior Living – a longstanding provider of Lifelong Learning for seniors.

There are many benefits for retirement communities or senior living facilities, i.e., Independent Living (IL), Assisted Living (AL) and Memory Care (MC), with less of a benefit for AL and MC only facilities for a college or university in sponsoring or conducting programs. In addition, there is a growing trend for colleges and universities in either owning, sponsoring or partnering in some manner with our planned developments in many markets throughout the United States.

SC has completed a number of white papers and research over a period of years in developing Lifelong Learning Programs for their projects and offering those programs to retirement communities and senior living projects, as well as to colleges and universities independently. As an example, SC developed a curriculum in coordination with Mercy College for SC's planned senior living project in Westchester County, NY. A separate and distinct curriculum was developed in Asheville for programs to be conducted there. More so, SC conducted extensive research throughout the Eastern United States on what it believes to be the best Lifelong Learning Programs. After reviewing programs from many esteemed universities (including the University of Florida, Clemson University, James Madison University, The University of Virginia, Rochester Institute of Technology, Stony Brook University and others), SC has identified well over 100 courses that could be offered in communities independently or as part of Lifelong Learning Centers within senior living facilities.

SC's Independent Living (IL), Assisted Living (AL) and Memory Care (MC) projects combined, such as their Pine Bush Senior Living, LLC, project near Albany in Guilderland, NY, will include a Lifelong Learning Center within the IL building that will be open to both residents and the public with a separate entrance and identity as such. At other projects, like The Grove at Lucks Lane, LLC, near Richmond in Midlothian, VA, the Lifelong Learning Programs will be offered in the existing common space and accessed through the main entrance. In that regard, SC is in the process of developing a curriculum pending feedback from area universities, including Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond.

Locally or regionally, we strongly value an affiliation with a college, providing that affiliation includes the college's support in shaping the community with us, sponsoring or at least being

involved in the management of the Lifelong Learning Center and allowing us access to their alumni. In some cases, colleges that sponsor senior living campuses or facilities, such as the University of Florida sponsored programs with the Oak Hammock Continuum of Care Retirement Community, position the college to further expand Lifelong Learning and create an atmosphere within a retirement community that attracts retired seniors back to where they attended college as residents of these communities. Our research (as detailed further in our case study, *University Sponsored or Affiliated Retirement Communities*) clearly suggests that alumni access, many of which embrace a return to where they went to college as a part of their retirement, would be extremely valuable.

The added roles of universities in segments of senior living operations provides further benefits in Lifelong Learning. As an example, Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, offers programs in a senior living facility close to the campus that includes Lifelong Learning Programs and also provides internships, job training and the ability for college students as part of their college curriculum to work with residents in a variety of capacities, from management to social services to caregiving.

Colleges and universities are far from the only valuable partners or sponsors in Life Long Learning Centers or Programs, with hospitals and other healthcare providers benefiting in sponsoring courses or programs. Lifelong Learning is extremely important for the social and emotional well-being of senior living residents and should be incorporated in all retirement communities and senior living facilities to the fullest extent possible.