

## Creative Senior Leadership Program at NCCCR

**Issue Area:** Local Leadership

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The Creative Senior Leadership Program fits in the local leadership area. It is an example of a transferable program that teaches senior citizens to be local leaders in their community. The Creative Senior Leadership Program was developed as an outline and service for hire; it is not a senior leadership group, but demonstrates the best methods for other communities to start a senior leadership program. The program was developed in order for it to be easily applied to other communities. The program was established by the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement at the University of North Carolina Asheville. The NCCCR was established in 1988 as part of UNC Asheville to provide today's accomplished adults with opportunities for lifelong learning, leadership, and community service. The organization has several programs running currently with the CSLP being on the forefront. They have used their own leadership program to create Leadership Asheville Seniors who have been pertinent to the area by making the community more livable for all people.

Leadership Asheville Seniors was one of the first leadership groups to emerge from the program when it began in 1990. The program was developed out of the belief that retirees can offer a wealth of knowledge, experience, leadership, and vitality to their communities while enriching their own lives. The CSLP is funded through public funding, consulting fees, donations, and grants.



*Learning new things with new friends*

The median age of senior leadership classes are sixty-five and class sizes are thirty-one. The program's best benefit is that it taps major contributions of experience and leadership skills of older adults while providing meaningful involvement for them. In order for a local senior leadership program to be successful CSLP outlines three factors: a connection with a community leadership program, co-sponsorship by a college/university, and community support and collaboration. For interested communities the major program costs are office rent, printing materials, and a part-time director's salary while participant fees can usually cover any other costs of the program.

The CSLP demonstrates a cost effective program for communities to use their seniors to benefit the community and also to benefit the social life of seniors. It is a great program that incorporates leadership of seniors and turns them into spokespeople for the community.

### **Related Resources:**

Creative Senior Leadership Program. <<http://www.unca.edu/ncccr/cslp/>>.

“Developing a Senior Leadership Program.” National Service Resource Center. <[http://epicenter.nationalserviceresources.org/index.taf?\\_function=abstract&Layout\\_0\\_uid1=33340](http://epicenter.nationalserviceresources.org/index.taf?_function=abstract&Layout_0_uid1=33340)>.

“North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement.” University of North Carolina at Asheville. <<http://www.unca.edu/ncccr/>>.

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Stewart, David. “Leadership Asheville Seniors.” *The Old Learner*. Fall 1999. <[http://www.unca.edu/ncccr/LAS/Stewart\\_article.html](http://www.unca.edu/ncccr/LAS/Stewart_article.html)>.