

# FAST FACTS

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## Executive Director

Lora Pollari-Welbes

## ESTABLISHED

Encore Learning was established in 2002 by a group of intrepid Arlingtonians who decided to start their own lifelong learning organization. They spent countless hours forging relationships to bring this service to the greater community.

## MISSION

Encore Learning is dedicated to providing our community with high-quality lifelong learning and social opportunities at a reasonable cost.

## OVERVIEW

We offer daytime, college-level courses, clubs and special events for anyone over fifty in the metropolitan area. We are an Arlington-based nonprofit, completely governed and primarily funded by our members. Approximately 70% of our members live in Arlington. We are an equal opportunity organization without regard to sex, race, color, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

**Membership & Fees:** We have over 900 active members. We've served over 3500 members over the past twenty-one years. Membership is \$65.00 per year and courses are \$55.00 each.

**Academic Course Offerings:** Now in our 41st semester, we offer courses in Fine Arts, Theater & Music; Health & Wellness; History; Law, Politics & Public Affairs; Literature & Writing; Science & Technology; and Social Sciences. Courses are offered virtually and in-person.

**Partnership with Mason:** We have held most of our in-person classes each semester on George Mason University's Arlington Campus and maintain an office in Van Metre Hall. Many of our instructors are current or former instructors at Mason. We also cosponsor events for Encore Learning members and the wider community.

**Free Community Events:** Our Course Previews showcase our instructors and the courses that will be available for the upcoming semester. Our "Encore Learning Presents" lecture series is a partnership with Arlington Public Library – we jointly sponsor at least one event per month that is free and open to the public. Mason instructors have frequently been selected as lecturers for this series.

**Giving:** Each year, we work through Arlington Community Foundation to award our **Arthur W. Gosling Scholarship** to an Arlington public high school graduate attending George Mason or Marymount Universities.

At Mason, our John T. Sprott – Encore Learning Scholarship is awarded each year to a graduate student in Mason's Schar School of Policy and Government. The McCracken Encore Learning Endowed Scholarship provides scholarships to undergraduates who are Arlington residents and graduates of an Arlington public or private high school.