Strategic Planning

For the Next 10-20 Years

Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO)

An active lifelong learning organization for individuals age 50 and beyond

Planning Goals

20 Year Old Organization - Planning for the Next 20 Years

Engage and Involve the 675 Members

Find a Central Office Space and Satellite Classrooms

History

- Began in 1987 with 30 members as part of the Division of Summer Sessions and Inter-College Programs (currently sponsored by and a part of the Division of Continuing Studies)
- Self-directed and member-led

Growth

- 15% average annual growth rate
- Members located in Madison and surrounding communities
- Grown from 1 location in 1987 to 9 locations in 2007

The PLATO curriculum offers such topics as:
- Art History
- Current Events
- World History
- American History
- Music
- Science
- Literature
- Philosophy
- Travel Stories
- World Religion

2020 - The Boomers are Coming

- 60+ age group will double nationwide by 2020
- In Dane County, 20% of population will be 60+ by 2020 (an increase of 102% from 1990 to 2020 for that age group)
- High involvement and high levels of participation

Plans for the Future

- Keep class size effective for group discussion
- Expand curriculum to meet member needs
- Expand instructor pool and classroom locations
- Emphasis on understanding and wisdom in a friendly and welcoming environment
- Continued growth
- Partnering with other organizations to increase successful programming

Contact

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