

**Case Statement**  
**The 5CLIR Campaign for the Future**  
**Aiming for 50 Years and Beyond**

What would we do without Learning in Retirement? For some of us it has proven to be a life-saver, for others a life enhancer, and the thought of not having it is more than worrisome – it is appalling! We hope that you share our belief in the value of this organization. It is important not just to its members but to the community at large, and not just for our lives but for generations to come.

Founded by invitation by the Five College presidents and just celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 5CLIR is proud of its accomplishments. Over 300 members now lead and enjoy an amazing variety of peer-led seminars each semester (as described on our website, [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org)) as well as other activities from French conversation groups and Science Roundtable to the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions. Similarly, the organization is managed by our members, supported by a single part-time office manager. Volunteers run the governing Council and the many committees that organize and oversee the quality of our programs. We have become an important part of the culture that this region offers retirees interested in active learning.

After a thorough review, we realize that to promote our success for the next quarter-century we need to address our financial foundation. Each year we must balance our budget entirely from member fees alone. Though we wish to keep our fees affordable to all who wish to participate, we could build a stronger organization if our finances were more robust. With more income we could afford the staff time to follow up on new ideas and to conduct more effective public relations. We could be able to hold seminars in spaces that charge fees for rooms or parking, an increasing need. We would have the start-up funds to enable interested members to initiate special programs like our successful "You and Your Genome," "Ageing Creatively," "The Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium," and others like them, which have been valuable parts of our community outreach.

For all these reasons we are beginning the 5CLIR Campaign for the Future. Our object is to raise a total of \$250,000 – at least \$200,000 for the 5CLIR Investment Fund and, at most, \$50,000 for our Reserve Fund to be used, while the 5CLIR Investment Fund is building, for all those needs outlined above. This will add to our current small investment fund, giving us enough income to draw on to support expanded operations in the future.

We invite each member to contribute to this campaign to offer the financial support that will carry our organization into the future with the resources it needs to improve and thrive. We want to establish a strong foundation for our second 25 years and beyond. As you consider a gift to the 5CLIR Campaign for the Future, note that all gifts of \$250 or more offered before June 30, 2016 will be matched by a generous group of donors (up to \$70,000). Together we can ensure that Five College Learning in Retirement will flourish far into the future.

- Adopted by the 5CLIR Council, June 9, 2015 (Michael Greenebaum, President; Sheila Klem, V.P./President-Elect; Betsy Loughran, Treasurer; Susan Beer, Assistant Treasurer; Ellen Peck, Secretary). Council members: Jim Perot, Jim Scott, Dean Poli, Fran Volkmann, Zina Tillona, Jim Averill, Marybeth Bridegam and Tyll van Geel